Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-136
Wednesday
15 July 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-136 *15 July 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

U.S. Weapons Nonproliferation Initiative Viewed *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Text of U.S.-Russian Missile Defense Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Revised Concept of U.S. Nuclear Parity Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 Jul]* 3
Kravchuk Speaks in Brussels on Nuclear Weapons *[IZVESTIYA 9 Jul]* 4

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kravchuk Meets Officials During Helsinki Visit *[Kiev Radio]* 5
Impact of G-7, CSCE Summits Assessed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Jul]* 5
CIS Aide Briefs CIS, Baltic Mission Staffers *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Jul]* 6
Northern Group of Forces Commander Interviewed *[NOVOYE VREMYA 23 Jun]* 6
Comparison to Yeltsin Address at CSCE Summit 8

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Black Sea Fleet Offered Bribes From Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Ukraine's 'Unilateral Actions' Noted *[Moscow TV]* 9
Commanders Give Briefings *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
'Breaches' of Dagomys Accord Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Jul]* 10
Chechniya Urges Citizens in Karabakh To Return *[INTERFAX]* 10
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Jul 11
Press Review for 15 Jul 12

RUSSIA

International

Foreign Ministry on FRY, Estonia, S. Ossetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
'Yugoslavia Is No Iraq' *[INTERFAX]* 13
Border Guards Monitor Estonian Border Traffic *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Georgian Delegate on Meeting With Russian Deputies *[Tbilisi Radio]* 14
Gaydar, Lithuanians Discuss Accounts Settlement *[Moscow Radio]* 14
Romanian 'Frankness' on Moldova Weapons Welcomed *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jul]* 14
Developments in Kuril Islands Dispute Reported *[IZVESTIYA 9 Jul]* 15
Sakhalin Governor on Shift in Stance *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 9 Jul]* 15
Further on Governor's Comments *[Moscow Radio]* 15
Rumors of Treaty Giving Kurils to Japan Denied *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jul]* 16
Deputies Affirm Transfer of Kurils Not Option *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 14 Jul]* 16
Relations With Japan on Eve of Talks Viewed *[PRAVDA 14 Jul]* 17
Peace Treaty Talks Open 15 Jul *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Role of Treaty, Aid Viewed *[Moscow TV]* 18
Official Comments on Sino-Russian Border Talks *[Moscow International]* 18
First Round Complete *[Moscow International]* 19
'Acts of Provocation' Reported on Chinese Border *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 14 Jul]* 19
Guards Prevent Border Violations *[POSTFACTUM]* 19
Agreement Signed With FRG on Russian Germans *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
FRG Aviation Delegation Visits Counterparts *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Jul]* 20
Moscow To Establish Embassy, Consulate in RSA *[INTERFAX]* 20

Security Archives Fail to Reveal Fate of POW's *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Deputy Foreign Minister on DPRK Relations *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Jul]* 20
UN To Help in Democratic Transformation *[INTERFAX]* 21
Government Prepares To Join Council of Europe *[INTERFAX]* 21
Commentary on Yeltsin's Concern Over Nationalism *[Moscow International]* 21
Commentary on U.S. Halting Plutonium Production *[Moscow International]* 22

Federation Affairs

Political Issues

Yeltsin Chairs Security Council Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Yeltsin on Country as Guarantor of Human Rights *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Kozyrev Questioned on 'Roundtable' Program *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Shokhin To Head Foreign Debt Working Group *[INTERFAX]* 23
Khizha Appointed To Oversee Strategic Exports *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 Jul]* 23
Vice Premiership Hinted at for A. Belyakov *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 14 Jul]* 24
Kryuchkov Letter to Yeltsin Published *[PRAVDA 11 Jul]* 24
Rutskoy on Russian-Speakers, Harvest *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 14 Jul]* 27
Program Aired on Work of Security Bodies *[Moscow TV]* 28
Archives Scrutiny, Declassification Detailed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Jul]* 28

Agricultural Issues

Rutskoy To Head Agrarian 'Supermonster' *[IZVESTIYA 11 Jul]* 31
Army Harvest Battalions Facing Resistance *[IZVESTIYA 11 Jul]* 32

Military Issues

Defense Ministry Reports AN-12 Plane Crash *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
14th Army Officers Send Open Letter to Yeltsin *[Radio Rossii]* 33

Media Issues

Newspaper Charged With Illegal Registration *[POSTFACTUM]* 33
Group Appeals to Yeltsin on Free Speech *[Moscow Radio]* 34
Newspaper Editor's Fears on Press Crackdown *[Moscow TV]* 34
Reportage on Ostankino Protests Examined *[Moscow TV]* 35

Economic Issues

Ministry Proposes Removal of Illegal Funds *[INTERFAX]* 35
Official Says Oil Production Continues To Drop *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Talks With Parties, Unions on Reform Held *[INTERFAX]* 36
Congress of Private Trade Unions Formed *[INTERFAX]* 36
Labor Conference Threatens Strike 7 Sep *[INTERFAX]* 36

Supreme Soviet

Draft Resolution Calls For Return of Newspaper *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jul]* 36
More on Resolution *[POSTFACTUM]* 37
White House Discusses Resolution *[Moscow TV]* 37
Draft Reviewed *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jul]* 38
Issue Postponed *[INTERFAX]* 38
Commentary on Draft Resolution *[IZVESTIYA 11 Jul]* 38
Further Commentary *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jul]* 39
10 Jul Proceedings Discuss Cossacks, Taxation *[Russian TV]* 40
Proceedings on Chernobyl, Economic Reform *[Russian TV]* 41
New Income Tax Law Amendments Adopted *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jul]* 41

Regional Affairs

Moscow City Soviet Condemns Popov Statement *[KURANTY 14 Jul]* 42
Moscow GUVD Chief's Dismissal Rumored *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 14 Jul]* 43
Over 90% Moscow Defense Enterprises Bankrupt *[Moscow TV]* 43
Moscow Begins Private Trade Regulation *[Radio Rossii]* 43
Moscow Drought Empties One-Third of Reservoir *[MOSKOVSKIYE KOMSOMOLETS 8 Jul]* ... 43
Khasbulatov Interviewed in Bryansk on Visit *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jul]* 44
'Old Cadre' Appointed to Local ITAR-TASS *[KURANTY 11 Jul]* 45
ITAR-TASS Regional Conference Ends *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Vladivostok Arsenal's Security Assessed *[Russian TV]* 46
Grain Harvest in Rostov Lower Than 1991 *[POSTFACTUM]* 47
Strategic Raw Materials 'Illicitly Exported' *[Russian TV]* 47
Tanks Scrapped, Melted Down in Chelyabinsk *[Russian TV]* 47

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Spokesman Briefs Newsmen on CIS Summit *[Kiev International]* 48
Supply of Armored Vehicles to Azerbaijan Denied *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Guards Report Moldova Border Stabilized *[Kiev International]* 49
Black Sea Delegation Suggests Meeting on Fleet *[Kiev International]* 49
New Vice Prime Minister on Resettling Germans *[UKRINFORM]* 49
Council of Europe Representatives Arrive *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* 49
Cetin Comments on Meeting *[Ankara TV]* 49
News Conference Held *[Ankara Radio]* 50

National Affairs

Kravchuk Appoints Commander of 17th Air Army *[Kiev TV]* 50
Further Reportage on Vice Premier's Dismissal *[INTERFAX]* 50
Lanovoyy on Kravchuk's Treatment *[POSTFACTUM]* 50
Dismissal Assessed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 14 Jul]* 51
Agricultural Production Down for 1992 *[INTERFAX]* 52
Cabinet Reshuffle, Energy Sector Plans Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jul]* 52
Presidential Body Examines Energy Sources *[Moscow International]* 53
Decree Issued on Closing Chernobyl Units *[INTERFAX]* 53
Order Issued To Curtail Seizure of Kiev Land *[Kiev International]* 53

WESTERN REGION

Byelarus

Shushkevich, Landbergis To Discuss Relations *[INTERFAX]* 54
Defense Official: Strategic Troops Not Needed *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Increasing Number of Officers Seek Home Service *[POSTFACTUM]* 54
KGB Opens Archives to Council of Ministers *[ITAR-TASS]* 55

Moldova

Adviser Stresses Economic Ties With Russia *[INTERFAX]* 55
Dniester Spokesman on Results of Rutskoy Meet *[INTERFAX]* 55
Snegur, U.S. Senator Discuss Dniester Conflict *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 55
Dniester Advances Proposals To Resolve Conflict *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Dniester Wants Russia, Ukraine To Guarantee Rights *[Radio Rossii]* 56
Prime Minister Visits Dniester Conflict Zone *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Dniester Leader Urges 'Normal' Ties with Moldova *[Moscow TV]* 56

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Urges Restriction of Exports *[INTERFAX]* 58
Cabinet Sets State Order Grain Purchase Prices *[PRAVDA 14 Jul]* 58
Farmers To Manage Harvest Without CIS Aid *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 58
Benefits Raised, VAT on Necessities Reduced *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jul]* 58
Largest Enterprise Prepares for Privatization *[INTERFAX]* 59

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Comments on CIS September Summit *[INTERFAX]* 59
Supports Role of Strong Russia *[INTERFAX]* 59
Russian Ambassador To Promote Civil Peace *[INTERFAX]* 59
Akayav Discusses New Government Structure *[INTERFAX]* 59
Akayev Says Republic To Remain in Ruble Zone *[ITAR-TASS]* 60

Tajikistan

Nabiyev Comments on Human Rights Violations *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Premier in Afghanistan To Discuss Arms Smuggling *[INTERFAX]* 60
Staff Member Details Future Military Doctrine *[INTERFAX]* 61

Turkmenistan

Cabinet Discusses Creating National Guard, Army *[INTERFAX]* 61
Niyazov Makes Statement on Secular Policy *[INTERFAX]* 61

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President Comments on Relations With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
Efforts To 'Wreck' Ties Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 63
Issues Statement on Gyumri Incident *[Radio Rossii]* 63
Official: Russian Statement on Gyumri 'Strange' *[INTERFAX]* 63
Russians To Join Team Investigating Gyumri Clash *[INTERFAX]* 64
Further on Preparations for Talks With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Yerevan Updates Nagorno-Karabakh Clashes *[Yerevan Radio]* 64

Azerbaijan

Official on Elchibey's Meetings With Bush, Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 65
Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Updated *[Radio Rossii]* 65
Policy To Reclaim Land From Armenians Viewed *[Ankara TV]* 66
Ministry Accuses Russian Army of 'Provocations' *[ITAR-TASS]* 66

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Regional Issues, Elections *[Istanbul CUMHURIYET 6 Jul]* 66
Peacekeeping Force 'Far From Ideal' *[INTERFAX]* 67
Republic's Forces Withdrawn From Conflict *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Peacekeeping Forces Deployed *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
'Combat Readiness' Needed in S. Ossetia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Jul]* 68
Abkhaz Official Responds to Militia's Demands *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 9 Jul]* 68
Prosecutor Denies Kavsadze With Gamsakhurdia *[INTERFAX]* 69
Associate Urges Gamsakhurdia To Resign *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 14 Jul]* 69
Polls Show Support for Radical Economic Reform *[Moscow International]* 69

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Debate Over Control of Armed Forces Cited *[Stockholm Radio]* 70
General Views Attacks on Russian Servicemen *[POSTFACTUM]* 70
Official Reprimanded for Separation Referendum *[BALTFAX]* 71

Latvia

Navy, Baltic Fleet Agree on Customs Policy *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 Jul]* 71
Equal Rights Deputies Stripped of Mandate *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jul]* 72
Forest Fires Not Controlled; Danger High *[Riga Radio]* 72
Resolution on Electricity Price Rise Adopted *[Riga International]* 72

Lithuania

Vagnorius Comments After No Confidence Vote 72
Issues Statement *[Vilnius Radio]* 72
Says Government Not To Resign *[BALTFAX]* 73
Addresses Supreme Council *[Vilnius International]* 73
Resolution Adopted on Vagnorius Role *[Vilnius Radio]* 74
Yeltsin Agrees on 'Necessity' of Withdrawing Army *[Vilnius Radio]* 74
Landsbergis Comments on Helsinki CSCE Document *[Vilnius Radio]* 74
French Military Delegation Meets Officials *[Vilnius Radio]* 74
Vagnorius 'Authorized' Destruction of Airfield *[BALTFAX]* 74
Supreme Council Body Discusses Economic Problems *[Vilnius Radio]* 75
Government Accuses Lithuania Bank of Violations *[Vilnius Radio]* 75
LIETUVOS AIDAS Becomes Independent Paper *[Vilnius Radio]* 75

Peacekeeping Troops Deployed in Ossetia

ITAR-TASS reports that "not a single shot was fired in South Ossetia overnight," following the deployment of 1,500 Russian, Georgian, and Ossetian peacekeeping troops along a 15-km-long security corridor on the border between South Ossetia and Georgia. The report adds that the "economic, transport and energy blockade" of Tskhinvali was lifted on 15 July. At a meeting of the State Council on 14 July, Georgian leader Shevardnadze stated that the presence of a tripartite peacekeeping force in the Tskhinvali region is "a far from ideal measure needed to end the confrontation in the area," according to INTERFAX. He voiced his preference for UN forces, but stated "that's impossible now."

Status of IZVESTIYA Questioned

IZVESTIYA reports on a draft resolution signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov on the "Encroachment on the Status of the Newspaper IZVESTIYA—One of the Most Overt Attempts at Revanche by the Nomenklatura." The draft resolution states that, upon dissolution of the IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR State Publishing House on 23 August 1991, "the founding and registration" of its successor, IZVESTIYA, by a collective of journalists and not the original founder, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, "involved a significant violation of the USSR Law 'On the Press and Other Mass Information Media.'" The USSR Presidium's right "to publish its official press organ" was thereby "violated" and measures have been proposed to amend the situation.

Moscow TV that journalists called this move "an attempt to put an end to glasnost and to introduce a new form of censorship." The Russian Supreme Soviet, however, notes that as the legal successor to the USSR Supreme Soviet, "it should have the right to publish IZVESTIYA", notes an IZVESTIYA report. INTERFAX reports that "a challenge to the independent status of the newspaper IZVESTIYA which the Presidium of Russia's Supreme Soviet planned to launch at next Friday's [16 July] session has been struck off this week's agenda." Following a meeting between Yeltsin and Khasbulatov, Yeltsin "expressed his resolute support for the paper which parliament had wished to control and for the freedom of the press on the whole."

Lithuania Reacts to No Confidence Vote

Vilnius Radio reports a statement by Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius following the no-confidence vote at the Supreme Council. Vagnorius described the vote as "the unseating of the government leader who had failed to bow to pressure from the pro-communist forces and criminal groups." He added that "we have been dismissed, not by new, progressive political forces, but by those who resolved in favor of a political attempt to stop the changes in Lithuania." The radio adds that the Supreme Council adopted a resolution stating that Vagnorius is "to continue at his post as prime minister until 21 July 1992" and the government "to continue its duties until a new government is formed." BALTFAX reports that Vagnorius said the "government was not going to resign" and asked the deputies to "'wait until the return of the chairman of the Supreme Council who will propose a new candidate to the post of the premier'".

Kazakh President Urges Export Restrictions

INTERFAX reports that Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbakyev accused brokerage firms and other commercial structures operating in the republic of "selling Kazakh metal to foreign companies getting round the existing regulations thus depriving the republic of 'vast amounts of hard currency.'" The president instructed the customs service to strengthen its control of the export of raw materials from the republic. Nazarbayev also noted Kazakhstan's financial dependency on Russia and "stressed the need for the republic to introduce a separate currency", other than the ruble.

U.S. Weapons Nonproliferation Initiative Viewed

LD1407172692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1707 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—The first analysis of the U.S. President George Bush's latest initiative concerning non-profileration of weapons of mass destruction and missile technology indicates its great significance for the world community, a statement issued by the Russian president's press-service said.

Due to the specific character and technical complexity of the problem, concerning key aspects of national security this initiative requires a deep analysis by specialists. The Russian side will give a full and detailed response as soon as Russian experts study it thoroughly, the statement emphasised.

But it is clear even today that President Bush's initiative creates more favourable conditions for realising joint decisions by the U.S. and Russia to reduce nuclear weapons. This initiative emphasises an objective interrelation of efforts for disarmament and control over non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of its delivery. The initiative also proves that there is a necessity to ban underground nuclear tests, which Russia insistently calls for.

Text of U.S.-Russian Missile Defense Statement

LD1507104292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0845 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—Follows the full text of the joint statement on the establishment of a global ballistic missile defense system:

Top-level Russian and U.S. delegations met in Moscow on 13-14 July to discuss the issue of establishing a global ballistic missile defense system.

These consultations grew out of the accord reached between Presidents B.N. Yeltsin and G. Bush in the course of the Washington summit. Both presidents agreed that our two countries must work with their allies and other interested states with the aim of developing a concept of a global defense system as part of a general strategy of counteracting the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

The two presidents agreed to study the following as a priority:

—the potential for information exchange on early warning for ballistic missile launches by setting up an early warning center;

—the potential for cooperation with participating states in the development of means and technologies for a ballistic missile defense; and

—the matter of working out a legal basis for cooperation, including new treaties and agreements and possible changes in existing agreements necessary for the implementation of a global defense system.

The delegations held constructive and fruitful discussions on all relevant matters. They agreed that both countries are facing a radically changed situation in the field of security, characterized by the end of the military confrontation of the "cold war" period and by the change in the nature of threats to international security, including the growing threat to the world community created by the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. They agreed that they need to collaborate with each other and with other interested states with the goal of finding solutions to these new tasks by studying the potential advantages of a global ballistic missile defense system. They also agreed on the importance of studying the role of defense in ensuring protection from limited missile attacks.

Both sides believe that their discussions have created a promising basis for further work. They have decided to set up three working groups within which specialists will immediately begin to tackle the tasks of developing an outline of a global defense system.

The working group on developing an outline of a global defense system will examine the question of the structure, specific features, and functions of a global defense system. It will study the concept of a global defense system and analyze the relationships between the main elements of such a system. Subgroups will be set up as required within the framework of the working group, including subgroups on research and outlines, early warning, and cooperation in the field of tactical ballistic missile defense.

A working group on cooperation in the field of technology will examine possible scientific research, experimental design work projects, the conduct of tests, and other forms of technological cooperation which would assist in the implementation of the idea of a global defense system, where possible in cooperation with other states. This group's work should reflect the activity of the working group on the outline.

A working group on nonproliferation will produce joint assessments of trends in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. It will also study ways and means of building up existing international efforts to prevent such proliferation as well as the question of future initiatives in this area.

Both sides agreed that the working groups will hold their first sessions soon. They also agreed that a high-level group will continue to take the leading role and periodically hold meetings to examine matters entrusted to it by Presidents B.N. Yeltsin and G. Bush in their 17 June statement. Both sides plan to provide the leadership of both countries with a report on the efforts being made in the near future.

Revised Concept of U.S. Nuclear Parity Viewed

PM1407092792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 3

["Expert's Opinion" article by Sergey Blagovolin, president of the National Security and Strategic Studies Institute: "Parity Yesterday and Today. But What About Tomorrow?"]

[Text] The Washington accords between the presidents of Russia and the United States on a significant reduction of nuclear missile arsenals were ambiguously received in our society. The major doubts and differences of opinion are caused by the following question: Have we lost parity with the United States as a result of these agreements, has strategic equilibrium been disrupted, and—ultimately—has Russia's security been damaged? It is often said in this context that parity was one of our people's greatest gains. Huge sacrifices were made in order to achieve it, justified by the need to ensure the country's reliable security. What will happen now?

Yes, these questions really require an answer. I will try to provide it on the basis of my own perception of the essence of the matter.

Indeed, no matter what the causes of East-West military confrontation might have been, nuclear missile parity during that period was the most important factor preventing the start of a major war, but let us not forget something else. The essence of this parity boiled down to the fact that both sides retained the potential to cause unacceptable damage to one another in a retaliatory strike.

This task was resolved by them a long time ago, but both sides continued to build up and improve their nuclear forces in the hope of acquiring the potential for a first disabling strike. This, however, was an insoluble problem, at least at the existing level of military technical development [razvitiye]. After all, even in the totally unlikely scenario of all ground-launched missiles being destroyed, submarine-launched missiles would still remain. The latter, even though relatively less accurate, still remained an almost ideal means for a retaliatory strike to be delivered against the most vulnerable targets—cities. But efforts persisted to develop [po sozdaniyu] different combat systems which could be perceived by each side as first-strike means. Thus the parity plank was being constantly raised, threatening to plunge mankind into the abyss of catastrophe.

There is another important consideration, in my view. Different countries at different stages of their history have repeatedly perceived different elements of military might as guarantees of security and have invested vast resources in their development [sozdaniye]. These elements include Britain's navy, France's Maginot Line, etc. For various reasons—economic, political, military technical, etc.—this function of guarantee was sooner or later exhausted. It is perfectly obvious that this fate also lay in store for nuclear missile weapons. It was only a question of when.

How do the Washington agreements appear from this viewpoint? There can be no suggestion at all of any real breach of parity or of any unilateral concessions. First, an approximately equal number of warheads is retained—between 3,000 and 3,500 units each—and this is more than sufficient to cause more than just unacceptable damage. Second, whereas we are giving up the SS-18 missiles, the Americans are giving up their MX missiles which, as we all recall only too well, caused such grave fears among us. Third, not only Russia but the United States as well is converting all remaining ground-launched missiles into single-warhead systems. Fourth, the United States is embarking upon major cutbacks in the most important component of its nuclear missile arsenal—the warheads of submarine-launched missiles. They number 5,760 at present, and this quantity will be reduced to 1,750, in other words by more than two-thirds. Finally, let us not forget that the United States has agreed to parity at 3,000-3,500 nuclear warheads with Russia, but so far it is still unclear what will happen to strategic nuclear weapons in Ukraine and Kazakhstan, which represent quite a sizeable quantity. Is this not an important step to meet Russia halfway?

Now to discuss something I perceive as especially substantial. The nature of our relations with the West, and with the United States in particular, is changing. From bringing down the level of military confrontation, we are switching to relations of partnership and later, I hope, to relations of alliance. This is extremely important. I have no doubts that, in the light of perfectly objective circumstances (geopolitical location, level of economic, scientific, and technical development, etc.), Russia is not in a position to ensure its security by itself. The West badly needs the new Russia as an active participant in an overall security system, with its own sufficiently powerful, modern, and effective armed forces, whose size and structure are in line with the new nature of relations between us and the new nature of—alas—the truly numerous threats from a series of other regions.

Without any doubt, the transition to such relations will take time. This cannot be achieved within just a few months. Here we have the inertia of the past, the need to convince yourself that your partners are honoring their commitments, and finally the complexity, size, and cost of the practical measures which will have to accompany this process. In other words, the process of mutual adaptation will take some time, which will produce confidence in the irreversibility of the changes taking place. Perceived as a kind of guarantee from this point of view, it is reasonable to assume that the agreements reached in Washington will not give anyone any tangible advantage.

But the transition to new relations places the very idea of parity on quite a different plane. Let me remind readers that nobody in Japan or West Europe has been or is

worried by the lack of parity with the United States. Even though this task is perfectly soluble both economically and technically. The reason behind this lack of worry lies in the very nature of relations between them. I would like to emphasize most strongly that such relations now exist between countries like, for example, the United States and Germany or the United States and Japan, which were fierce opponents in the battlefields of world wars in the relatively recent past. I am perfectly convinced that, if our relations with the West develop as planned, the armed forces of both Russia and our partners, including their nuclear missile component, will be perceived not as a factor of reciprocal threat but as one of the mainstays of an overall security system.

As for the actual concept of parity, it is obviously about to outlive the past meaning of the word. It is about to be replaced by the concept of some kind of "realistic deterrence" based on optimization of defense efforts and on reappraisal of the scale and nature of threats and the ways to counter them. But this is a different topic.

Thus, I think that there are no grounds for negative assessments of the Washington agreements. Unless, of course, one has in mind certain political objectives unassociated with the country's interests. These agreements mark the beginning of a new and important stage of military activities [voyennaya deyatelnost] in Russia, timed to coincide with a profound military reform. Of course, the path ahead is far from easy. In order to successfully cross it, it will be necessary to pool the efforts by all who have a vision of Russia as a democratic and strong country whose armed forces are capable of effectively performing the new and complex tasks which we encounter in the world around us.

Kravchuk Speaks in Brussels on Nuclear Weapons

PM1007131592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Maksim Gan: "Ukraine Does Not Intend To Delay Elimination of Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] Ukraine's position on the question of the withdrawal of nuclear weapons to Russian territory remains unchanged, but nuclear warheads must, wherever possible, be destroyed on the spot, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who is on a working visit to Belgium, told journalists.

According to the president, Ukraine is "pleased" to eliminate its nuclear weapons earlier than planned and the Ukrainian parliament will soon ratify the treaty on reducing strategic arms with Russia, Kazakhstan, and Byelarus. In Brussels Kravchuk also intends to discuss with NATO representatives the possibility of developing relations, since NATO "now plays a political rather than a military role."

To all appearances Kravchuk's visit to Belgium is proceeding very fruitfully. The Ukrainian president was the only one of the leaders of the CIS countries to attend the international conference on antisemitism in Brussels. Kravchuk not only announced the imminent opening of a Ukrainian embassy in Israel but also set out Ukraine's position on the question of protecting the rights of national minorities, in particular of the Jewish population, whose position in the former USSR republics is causing increasing alarm internationally. The president said that his country has granted national minorities more rights than any other CIS state. Ukraine has chosen the path of building a democratic and not a strictly ethnic states, and that is a source of stability and interethnic consensus, Kravchuk said.

A declaration on the principles of mutual relations between Belgium and Ukraine and a protocol on the free movement of diplomats were also signed in Brussels, which opens the way to the conclusion of an interstate treaty between the two countries. In the very near future a group of Belgian experts and specialists will go to Ukraine and will study the state of affairs and elaborate a specific plan of cooperation.

Kravchuk Meets Officials During Helsinki Visit

LD1307040492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met leaders of a number of states and governments. During the meeting with Bulgarian President Zhelev Zhelyn, there was an exchange of opinions on the role of the CSCE in solving international problems and in regulating armed conflicts by political means. Problems of developing bilateral relations between Ukraine and Ireland were discussed during the meeting between the head of the Ukrainian state and Prime Minister Albert Reynolds. Priorities of future cooperation were discussed. Ireland intends to provide assistance to Ukraine in developing transport, agriculture, industry, and tourism. Leonid Kravchuk supported the proposal of the prime minister of Ireland and proposed to form a group of experts in the near future to develop specific programs.

Impact of G-7, CSCE Summits Assessed

PM1307133992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jul 92 p 2

["Topic of the Week" article by Observer Aleksandr Golts: "Moscow, Munich, Helsinki...Three Attempts To Prevent Chaos"]

[Text] It was hardly a deliberate plan, but it has been in the middle of the year that international activity has peaked. Last week was perhaps the busiest and hardest for politicians, diplomats, experts, and journalists. It began with a meeting of the CIS republics' leaders in Moscow, continued with the Munich summit of the leaders of the seven major industrial powers and their talks with the Russian president, and ended in Helsinki with the conference of CSCE countries' heads of state and government.

Each of these events merits separate analysis and commentary. I would just like to pinpoint the common denominator that determined the essence of all three top-level meetings. It is the quest, an agonizing quest at that, for an answer to the question of how to live in a "post-Soviet" society and how to build a new world order in which there is no division into East and West.

Recently I read in a U.S. newspaper a curious account of the causes of the psychological shock suffered by people passing from societies that are called totalitarian to a society that is called democratic. The author compares totalitarianism to a zoo in which everyone is allotted a particular cage, regularly receives rather indifferent food, and dreams of the jungle, where there is freedom and wild flowers and fruits grow. But now the cage has gone and the inhabitants of the zoo are in the jungle. It now transpires that as well as the flowers and fruits there are predators; it is every man for himself, and might is right.

I got thinking: The grim confrontation between East and West was also a kind of cage. It assigned each people to a particular place, to their own enclosure, but when the cage disappeared, the danger of chaos ensued. In fact, unbridled chaos is already spreading across Europe, and there are no guarantees that it will remain within the borders of Yugoslavia, Karabakh, the Dniester Region, and Ossetia. But the jungle is not an ideal setting for the new world order, and neither the weak nor the strong will accept this chaotic situation. This is confirmed by the events of the past week.

I think that now, perhaps for the first time since the creation of the CIS, the Commonwealth leaders have finally recognized the need to take joint action to counter the economic, political, and military chaos in the former Soviet Union. To that end they have been forced to temper their yearning for sovereignty, which only yesterday knew no bounds. I believe this explains why they decided to set about establishing a joint peacekeeping force. A force which, it is hoped, would at least be able to stop local wars. Let us hope also that the sober approach demonstrated in Moscow will not be suppressed once again by a wave of nationalist politicking.

The leaders of the major Western countries also find themselves in a new and seemingly not very comfortable situation. When they lost their age-old enemy it appeared that the time had come to protect (and do so uncompromisingly) their own economic interests against their own closest allies. The question of leadership is a crucial one in this situation. Washington, which not so long ago during similar meetings, was proclaiming itself head of the "crusade against communism," was forced to acknowledge that the crusade had to end when the U.S. positions became shaky. During the present summit President Bush was not the star of the Munich show," THE WASHINGTON POST states. "The absence of a dominant U.S. role is just one indication of the new mood among the 'G-7.'"

The only question on which a really high degree of agreement was reached at the Munich meeting was the question of giving Russia assistance. Naturally one welcomes FRG Chancellor H. Kohl's words to the effect that the world leaders talked with Yeltsin differently than they talked with Gorbachev a year ago, as an equal. The statement that the next meeting of the "G-7" will find an agreed formula for Russia's participation was also impressive.

Let us not deny the West's goodwill and, we hope, its sincere desire to aid Russian economic revival. However, I believe the fact that the West, sad to say, still sees us not only as partners but also as a global threat with no insignificant role to play. In the case of the USSR they saw the threat of a nuclear war, and in the case of Russia they see the threat of the uncontrollable breakup of a major nuclear and military power. That is why the "G-7" is concerned and wants to see the economic reforms succeed here. That is why it is much more benevolent than you might have expected (we are talking about tens of billions of dollars) and accepted Yeltsin's request for debt rescheduling (although it is significant too that B.

Yeltsin promised, Western sources report, to pay the debts through the transfer of concessions for the development of natural resources and also ownership of land, enterprises, and other real estate). That is why they took the risk of allocating the first of the promised $24 billion by August, and they did it before they received guarantees in the form of real changes in economic policy. The funds are being allocated in order to prevent chaos.

As B. Yeltsin said, in Munich he obtained no less and no more than he expected, but many people point out that the "G-7" failed, as they had done a year ago, to take any fundamental steps in Moscow's direction and that the allotted funds and proposed measures fall short of the massive task the Yeltsin administration has taken on. Time will tell whether our partners have erred in displaying moderation in the matter of aiding Russia.

In the same way in the future, we will find out whether the documents signed yesterday in Helsinki are the first step toward a change of role for the CSCE. The contradictory nature of this international institution's present role was very clearly demonstrated literally on the eve of the meeting of heads of state and government. Documents on CSCE membership were signed by representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Croatia. Just think about it: Commitments on the protection of human rights and on the inviolability of borders were assumed by coountries involved in bloody conflicts during which human rights have been violated on a massive scale.

I know that it was the desire to halt these conflicts and create a civilized framework for relations among the republics of the former USSR that played the decisive role when they were all admitted to the CSCE without any consideration of the political situation or even geography. To be frank, their joining has not changed their policy in any major way. Does this not make a mockery of principles which everyone declares with alacrity but which by no means everyone follows?

So as I understand it, the "1992 Helsinki Document" signed yesterday, symbolically titled "The Challenge of a Time of Change," not only contains declarations of principle, but is also the first attempt to introduce into CSCE practice rules and mechanisms to implement these rules on the basis of the norms of international law. In the first place we are talking about mechanisms to prevent conflicts, including the use of CSCE military contingents.

In a very short period, efforts have been made in Moscow, Munich, and Helsinki which perhaps will lay the foundation of a new world order, and if they are unsuccessful on this occasion (which is entirely likely), optimism is generated by the fact that the efforts are being made. Consequently, the international community is beginning to recognize the danger it faces and is trying to counteract it. Perhaps it is time we in the CIS, who are in greater danger than anyone else, not only recognized the danger, but started to act?

CIS Aide Briefs CIS, Baltic Mission Staffers

PM1307142592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command Public Information Center: "At the CIS Armed Forces High Command"]

[Text] There has been a working meeting between Lieutenant General V. Manilov, head of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Information Services, and the staff of embassies and permanent missions of Commonwealth states and of the Latvian Republic, the Lithuanian Republic, and the Estonian Republic. There was a discussion of topical questions connected with information collaboration in the military-political sphere in the interests of strengthening trust, mutual understanding, and cooperation.

Lieutenant General L. Ivashov, secretary of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, met with Major General Genschel and Admiral Zeer, representatives of the NATO International Joint Staff. Questions of mutual interest were examined and a willingness to continue cooperation was expressed.

Northern Group of Forces Commander Interviewed

PM1407082992 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No. 26 (Signed To Press 23 Jun 92) pp 28, 29

[Interview with Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, commander of the CIS Northern Group of Forces and chief of General Staff and first deputy defense minister of Russia, by correspondent Rudolf Boretskiy in Warsaw; date not given: "General Dubynin: Thanks, Poles, for Putting Up With Us for 47 Years"]

[Text] Warsaw—Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, commander of the CIS Northern Group of Forces, has left Warsaw in his new capacity as chief of General Staff and first deputy defense minister of Russia. Just before leaving for Moscow he gave an interview to our correspondent in Warsaw, Rudolf Boretskiy.

Viktor Dubynin's name has cropped up often in Polish newspapers recently. Here attention has been drawn to the fact that his actions have been marked by resolution and his judgments by independence and openness. He immediately stood out from the dull green uniformed ranks of his faceless colleagues.

[Boretskiy] I admit I find it difficult to know how to address you: The days of "comrade general" are past, I think, while plain "general" still sounds odd somehow. Perhaps I may just call you Viktor Petrovich, as in civilian life?

[Dubynin] Of course (he smiled).

[Boretskiy] You have become a noted figure in Poland. Moreover, and this is altogether unusual for Poland, people express a liking for this foreign, Russian general.

The main factor here, as I see it, was the courageous step you took in lifting a little the heavy curtain obscuring the truth about 1981. What impelled you—as the first and only person—to do this?

[Dubynin] You have to start with the fact that attacks on the Polish leadership of that time, and on Wojciech Jaruzelski in particular, were growing, as if this whole problem were confined to him. The unfairness of the indiscriminate criticism of the Polish leadership was the first impulsion. The second and undoubtedly even more important factor was the desire to clarify the truth, which had long been suppressed.

In 1981 it was planned to employ military measures if resolute steps to maintain the stability of the system and order in the country were not taken by the Polish leadership. I do not wish to assert here that this necessarily meant active military operations, rather it meant stabilizing the situation in the country by our presence. In other words, by the very fact of the presence of our troops.

[Boretskiy] On Polish territory?

[Dubynin] Yes, on Polish territory in order to prevent the gathering momentum of Solidarity from altering the existing system in this strategically very important region for us.

[Boretskiy] What were you at that time, in 1981?

[Dubynin] I was commander of a tank division in the Byelarusian Military District stationed not far from Minsk.

[Boretskiy] As a division commander, did you receive any orders, instructions, or signals at least about a military operation prepared against Poland?

[Dubynin] (He pondered and concentrated for a pretty long time in silence). Well I will tell you, now the time has come, I think, to tell. We were ready. The division was ready. Moreover, I personally was engaged in the planning. At any rate, the arrangements for moving the units and their distribution and routes were ready. My division was ready too. I was aware of the tasks, knew where we were to go in, and knew all the population centers we were to occupy.

[Boretskiy] And where would you have been, where would your tanks have gone in?

[Dubynin] An area south of Warsaw.

[Boretskiy] The admission that the Soviet Union planned at the end of 1981 a large-scale military operation to "pacify" Poland (in the spirit of the "fraternal assistance" extended to Czechoslovakia in 1968) is valuable because it is not hearsay, not rumor, but the informed testimony of a direct participant—a drafter and intended executant of the plan. The concept of the "limited sovereignty" of the countries of the socialist community in 1981 would have inevitably led to bloody tragedy. Knowing Poland and the Poles, I venture to assert this with an utter sense of responsibility. Let us return to present-day problems. We are all interested in your recent call on President Lech Walesa. What did you talk about?

[Dubynin] We discussed the mechanism for the final withdrawal of our troops from Polish territory. During the signing of the package of documents on military issues in Moscow, documents which had already been initialed moreover, an altogether unforeseen incident occurred.

[Boretskiy] You mean the encrypted message received by Lech Walesa from former Premier Olszewski a couple of hours before the signing of the agreement?

[Dubynin] The encrypted message contained a demand to alter certain material and financial points of the joint protocol.

[Boretskiy] As a result of which, as the Polish newspapers wrote, President Walesa's visit to Moscow was almost ruined.

[Dubynin] Yes, the divergences between the document prepared for signing and the the demands of the premier were very substantial. The new wording, which was hurriedly proposed by the Polish side, was, let us put it this way, not in our interest. The Russian side, especially President Yeltsin, showed goodwill and made concessions—and sizeable ones—in order to secure the signing of all the treaties, including the documents on military issues. But, and this seems to me a substantive point, the Polish side assured us that it would do everything to help create the most propitious climate both for the withdrawal of the troops and for the provision of facilities for our soldiers. President Walesa told me that he would "pass the hat around" the rich West to obtain resources and secure the credit to build accomodations for our servicemen while the workforce and construction materials would be provided by Poland. The president gave the assurance that not a single soldier leaving Poland would have to live in a tent or railcar.

What is more, we asked that joint Polish-Russian enterprises be set up afterward at a number of facilities that we are leaving behind and that the resources earned from their sale and subsequent activity be invested in the construction of accomodations. This point was also contained in the initialed document, but here, as is clear from the encrypted message received by Lech Walesa, the former premier was against it. It was with the aim of clarifying all these involved issues that I paid a call on the president. My hour-long talk was amicable, and President Walesa, treating my misgivings with complete understanding, assured me that he would do his utmost to ensure that not a single one of our soldiers would think ill of Poland or the Polish people after returning home. Lech Walesa promised our president, as he told me during our meeting at the Belweder Palace, that he would do everything to help set up joint enterprises—not just on the territory of our former military camps, but

throughout Poland—starting with those places where there is an available workforce.

[Boretskiy] You apologized to the president, as the Polish mass media have noted, for the more than four decades of our military presence.

[Dubynin] The Polish press somewhat distorted the meaning of my words. In some publications I read that General Dubynin went to President Walesa to apologize for the presence of our troops in Poland for 47 years. The aim of my visit was, as I've already said, different. In actual fact the president prompted me to make a statement to the Polish people and society. I said with utter sincerity: "When the last soldier has left Poland, the Russian side will be able to say one thing—thank you, dear citizens of Poland, for putting up with us for 47 years. There have been good moments during that long period, but there have also been tragic ones: traffic accidents, accidental explosions, plane crashes, soil contamination, forest fires; lots of things happened, therefore our thanks for your forbearance." That's actually how it was.

[Boretskiy] What mood are you returning home in?

[Dubynin] I am grateful to the Russian president for his great trust. My task now is to create a new structure for the General Staff—small in number, but powerful, effective, and modern. This new structure also has to draw up in the quickest possible time a new military doctrine for the Russian state and a concept of the new army. Our army should not and cannot be burdensome for the state and the people. While at the same time the people should be certain that such an army is capable of defending them against any aggressor, although we do not now perceive any aggressive intentions against us by any state. But the army as an attribute of the state and its defen[illegible] should retain a very high standard, and then it will be p[illegible]sible to talk boldly with any state on an equal footing whereas now certain foreign politicians presume to treat us as second- and third-class.

[Boretskiy] If you will allow me one last question. What, in your view, should be the future of the Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU] which, as far as I am aware, occupied—particularly in peacetime—virtual pride of place in the General Staff structure?

[Dubynin] I think the GRU should remain. As long as there is an army, it is essential it have its own intelligence service. We have to be in control of the situation. We have to know what kind of army a state has, what it is specifically engaged in, and, if it does have its sights on something, exactly what that something is. We must not allow another 1941.

Comparison to Yeltsin Address at CSCE Summit

LD1007172592

Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1630 GMT on 10 July carries a seven-minute recorded speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the CSCE summit in Helsinki on 10 July. The Russian TV version has been compared to the ITAR-TASS World Service item headlined "Yeltsin Addresses CSCE Summit" published in the International Affairs section of the 10 July Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on page 2 allowing for the following variations:

page two, column one, paragraph one, first sentence, Russian TV item reads: [Text] Esteemed Mr. Chairman...(omitting ITAR-TASS introduction)

paragraph five, from last sentence, Russian TV version reads: ...truly tragic road!

Now this most difficult period is coming to an end. Freedom and democracy are affirming themselves in the life of those European peoples which until recently were deprived of natural human rights.

Europe has changed...(adding new paragraph)

page three, column one, fourth paragraph, from last sentence, Russian TV version reads:...in this hall.

Thank you. [applause] [video shows Yeltsin coming to rostrum] (adding last paragraph, editor's note)

Black Sea Fleet Offered Bribes From Ukraine

LD1507014992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1106 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—The efforts to "Ukrainianize" the Black Sea Fleet are becoming increasingly insistent and the fleet has become a stumbling block to relations between Kiev and Moscow. The atmosphere in Sevastopol—the Black Sea Fleet's main base—is becoming more strained every day as the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and Navy violate the moratorium on unilateral actions agreed by Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk at their recent meeting in Sochi (a resort on the Black Sea shore of the Caucasus).

As the TASS correspondent was told by telephone from Sevastopol by an official in the apparatus of the fleet's assistant commander for personnel work, a few days ago a pre-planned action was carried out for officers of the Sevastopol city command to take the Ukrainian oath. A squad of guards from the staff of the Ukrainian Navy was brought into the command premises; Major General Vilen Martirosyan, chairman of a Ukrainian Government committee, came to congratulate those who took the oath.

Representatives of the Ukrainian military authorities are conducting a dishonest game, promising the officers of the fleet and the garrison various material benefits if they take the republican oath, the officer went on to say. Thus, Lieutenant Colonel Zverev, head of the command, was promised promotion and a staff car, and officers without apartments were promised accommodation. According to the same officer, General Martirosyan appeared on local television where he adopted an belligerent stance and declared that the Black Sea Fleet would be Ukrainian whatever happened.

The official in the apparatus of the assistant commander of the fleet for personnel work noted that the coordinating council of the officers' assemblies of the Black Sea Fleet strongly opposed the actions of the Ukrainian side.

The disagreements between Ukraine and Russia over the Black Sea Fleet arose almost immediately after the formation of the CIS in December. Despite the signing by the Commonwealth member states of the agreements on strategic forces which envisage their being placed under the joint command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Ukraine demands that it be given all the vessels of the fleet based on its territory. Russia, however, considers that Ukraine's share should not exceed 20 percent.

Ukraine's 'Unilateral Actions' Noted

LD1407152392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Recently, we have been receiving contradictory information on the situation around the Black Sea Fleet. I have just been informed that we received a report from this region on the news conference of Fleet Commander Admiral Kasatonov.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The residents of Sevastopol were particularly alarmed by an armed conflict in the military commandant's office. Its command, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Zverev, swore allegiance to Ukraine, seized the garrison's central control point and said they are no longer subordinate to the Black Sea Fleet. However, on the night from 10-11 July, the point was occupied by the new leadership of the commandant's office, subordinated to the Black Sea Fleet. Thus, the status quo has been restored and without shooting, thank God. This could have very well happened.

[Admiral I.V. Kasatonov] It is absolutely necessary to put an end to all these violations of the moratorium, since this destabilizes the situation. It not only upsets the situation in subunits but also affect families. Wives and children are worried, and naturally the mood in this town is very bad.

The Dagomys agreements state that no unilateral actions should be taken. These very unilateral actions are being taken by the Ukrainian side. As for us, we are forced to defend ourselves somehow and naturally take adequate steps. [end recording]

Commanders Give Briefings

LD1407203692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1752 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk]

[Text] Sevastopol (Crimea), 14 Jul (TASS)—Two views and two positions on the same events were made public today at news conferences that were held in turn by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, commander of the Naval Forces of the Ukraine. The events of the past few days in the Black Sea Fleet, which is connected with the personnel of some of the Fleet's subunits taking the oath of allegiance to the people of the Ukraine, are the reason for their statements. In particular, the fact that such an oath has been taken by the servicemen of the Sevastopol garrison commandant's office has provoked a sharp reaction on the part of the Black Sea Command.

Speaking to journalists, Admiral Igor Kasatonov described this action as an armed seizure of the control point of the garrison of the Fleet's main base and as a blockade.

Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, commander of the Ukrainian Naval Forces, stated that people now have the right to make a free choice regarding the state to which they will swear allegiance. As to the incident at the commandant's office, Kozhin rejected allegations of an arms

seizure. Nothing of the kind took place, he said. Moreover, after taking the oath, the entire commandant's office expressed readiness to continue their functional duties as before. They did precisely that until Admiral Kasatonov returned from a business trip. However, the commander of the Black Sea Fleet immediately took marines into the building of the commandant's office.

It seems that both commanders agreed on the two points. They refuted reports in the foreign media that a state of higher combat readiness was introduced in the Fleet. In their addresses, Kasatonov and Kozhin paid considerable attention to the question of stabilizing the situation in the Fleet, having stressed their desire to do everything necessary in order to achieve this. It appears that no further deterioration of the situation is to be expected. Moreover, the Russian and Ukrainian experts are to arrive tomorrow. Their conversation is to be carried out in the practical terms of the forthcoming division of the Fleet.

'Breaches' of Dagomys Accord Viewed

PM1507092392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 92 pp 1, 3

[Report by Vladimir Pasyakin and Vladimir Yermolin: "Ukraine's Ministry of Defense Unilaterally Breaches Dagomys Agreements"]

[Text] Sevastopol's military commandant and his subordinates swore an oath of loyalty to Ukraine on 9 July. Fleet Commander Admiral I. Kasatonov was in St. Petersburg on that day, but Major General V. Martirosyan visited Sevastopol and congratulated Ukraine's newly hatched soldiers on the memorable occasion.

There can be no doubt that both Martirosyan and Ukraine's Defense Minister General K. Morozov, who issued the order for the resubordination of the Commandant's Office to the republic's Navy, were perfectly well aware that this was a gross violation of the Dagomys accords which, as is well known, provide for a moratorium on actions by either side affecting the fleet's integrity, nor could they have failed to foresee the Black Sea Fleet commander's reaction. None of this prevented the Ukrainian side from yet again "lighting the fuse," as the saying goes, in this already explosive situation.

Let us remind readers that an act of swearing the Ukrainian oath was organized the day before on the sea-going trawler Signalshchik and in the fleet's coastal defense artillery regiment. The relevant statements by the fleet commander were disregarded.

Now the Commandant's Office has taken the oath. Adm. I. Kasatonov described this as "seizure of the Sevastopol Garrison's command and control center," and even though Garrison Commander Lieutenant Colonel V. Zverev tried to assure the fleet command that its move beneath the Ukrainian Navy's banner poses no threat to the fleet's combat readiness, it is obvious that this step will have to rank among other similar steps. In the admiral's opinion, attempts to unilaterally "privatize" Black Sea Fleet units and subunits in Ukraine's favor can only lead to a fresh exacerbation of the situation, not just in the fleet but also in the region.

The commander adopted a series of measures to neutralize actions by the Ukrainian Commandant's Office. From the evening of 10 July, the Commandant's Office building has been taken over by a marine subunit, Zverev has been removed from the post of commandant, and Captain First Rank V. Dolgov has been temporarily appointed to replace him. It has been announced that Zverev and Colonel V. Indilo, Ukraine's deputy defense minister who has sided with him, have now proclaimed a hunger strike.

The question is: Why was it necessary to pose the threat of wrecking the Russian-Ukrainian accords which proved so difficult to achieve in Odessa and Dagomys? It seems that we all should have learned our lessons from the bitter experience of dissension: It is easy to release the flywheel of conflict, but think of the price that will have to be paid later to bring it to a standstill. The experience is there to see, but we are in no hurry to draw conclusions.

Adm. I. Kasatonov will hold a news conference 14 July, when he will make a statement regarding the situation which has developed around the Black Sea Fleet in the last few days. The admiral's activeness and his determination are well known, but it is probably also necessary to hear immediately from the politicians, especially from Russia's government on whose behalf the Dagomys talks were conducted.

Chechniya Urges Citizens in Karabakh To Return

OW1307222992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Once again Checheniya appealed to its citizens fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh asking to return home. This appeal is contained in a statement made by the assistant Foreign Minister of Checheniya Artur Umanski in Stepanakert (Khankendi).

The assistant of the Chechen Foreign department confirmed that there are casualties among the Chechens in Nagorno-Karabakh. "The leadership of the Chechen republic has not sanctioned the participation of the Chechen citizens in the Karabakh war".

The statement expresses concern of the Chechen leadership due to the possibility of involvement into the Armenian-Azeri conflict. Umanski declared about the readiness of Checheniya to be a mediator in settling the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

Earlier such a demand on the return of the Chechen citizens fighting in Azeri formations in Karabakh was

put forward by the republican Foreign Minister Shamil Beno during his visit to Baku.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Jul

LD1407132792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 14 Jul 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 14 ITAR-TASS—Today's newspapers highlight the developments in "hot spots" and other conflict situations in a number of CIS areas.

The newspapers give a detailed account of an operation aimed at disengaging the warring sides in South Ossetia by means of a multilateral military contingent of peace-keeping force.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA daily writes that the most difficult task for the peace-keeping force will be to deal with armed formations controlled neither by the Georgian, nor by the Ossetian side.

According to South Ossetian special services, there are about 9- 12 Ossetian and 3 mixed groups totalling 350 men. It is supposed that about the same number of armed formations are involved in hostilities from the Georgian side.

The "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" newspaper writes that military observers in the Dniester region point out that over the past five days the conflicting sides have been abiding by the ceasefire agreement. The only exception is the area of the city of Bendery, which, according to the newspaper, is turning into the main target of the warring sides on both banks of the Dniester River.

According to newspaper's estimates, the war has already cost Moldova some 10-15 billion roubles, the Dniester Region has lost some 4-6 billion roubles.

Head of the parliament of the Dniester region Grigoriy Marakutsa said in an interview with the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" that he intends to hold talks with Moldova on the recognition of the status of the Dniester Republic and spoke in favour of accepting the idea of confederation with Moldova.

All newspapers comment on the tragedy which occurred in the Armenian town of Gyumri on July 10, when five Russian servicemen were killed during an attack on a Russian unit by Armenian militants.

The "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" newspaper quoted Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppayev, deputy commander of the troops of the Caucasian Military District, as saying that the Armenian side was to blame for the death of the servicemen. A correspondent of the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" believes the incident was a provocation since building up tension in relations with Russia are not in Armenia's interests.

The "TRUD" newspaper asked to comment on the incident Colonel Valentin Maryin, commander of the 21st Brigade of the Russian landing force, whose soldiers and an officer were killed in Gyumri. Maryin said it was obvious for him that it was a deliberate action to seize guns and armour, carried out by Karabakh's militants.

The "TRUD" newspaper arrives at the conclusion that until agreements are signed regulating the status of Russian troops in Caucasian republics, another tragedy can occur at any time.

The "PRAVDA" daily publishes an article by the Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, who comments on the role of the parliament in a state political system, the evolving democracy and effective structure of bodies of power in Russia. Khasbulatov dismisses the idea of dissolving the present Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies, since, as he put it, they act as stabilising factors and prevent the government from possible resorting to tough, authoritarian methods of management.

"In case the Russian parliament succeeds in reducing the value added tax by two times, the losses of the republican budget will amount to 1,000 billion roubles," Andrey Vavilov, first Russian Deputy Minister of Finance, said in an interview with the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA". "It will lead to almost a double reduction in our expenditures," he said. "Because of the position of the Russian parliament we shall be unable to finance the defence industry and repay state debts", he added.

The "TRUD" newspaper writes that a number of recent decrees by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and legislative acts lead to a conclusion that the time has come for "perestroyka in the course of economic reform". An economic survey, published by the newspaper, says that the most important thing was to admit the inefficiency of using purely financial levers.

The "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA" newspaper writes that hunger is again expected in Russia, commenting on the situation in Russian agriculture and crops forecast for 1992.

According to the forecast, due to unfavourable weather conditions it is expected to raise 94-98 million of tonnes of grain, which is more than last year but less than the average annual output.

The newspapers continue publications on the "former CPSU" case which is being investigated by the Russian constitutional court.

According to the "TRUD" newspaper, public interest in the event in subsiding with every passing day. The newspaper writes that it is clear for everyone that the sides have determined their positions, but it is a trial and it should be passed through to the end. However, the end is not yet seen, the newspaper added. The newspaper expressed the opinion that the CPSU supporters obviously intend to drag out the hearings.

The PRAVDA newspaper publishes an interview with Sergey Aristov, chief of an investigation team of the Russian Prosecutor's Office, which is ivestigating the case of the CPSU "black funds", who said that they have much evidence that over 111 parties and movements in more than eighty countries were financed from the CPSU funds. Aristov added that they managed to recover over 4 billion dollars from six countries. A total of 52 people's deputies sent an open letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, published by the "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" newspaper, concerning the possible transfer of the South Kuril islands to Japan. "Don't claim the Kuril islands," the letter said. "Territorial consessions are fatal, especially those that destroy Russia's defence capacity in the East. If we give up the South Kuril islands, it may be followed by an avalanche of aggressive claims to our lands," the letter pointed out.

Press Review for 15 Jul

LD1507061392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0514 GMT 15 Jul 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS—The deployment of peacekeepers in South Ossetia, developments in other commonwealth hotspots and the question about the mass media are among the major topics covered by newspapers today.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA highlights an address by a Joint Control Commission of the joint forces of Georgia, Russia and North Ossetia on all armed units urging them to cease fire and lay down arms. "The peace-keeping forces will be seeking to enforce these requirements by all available means, including fire power. This right is provided by the peace-keeping forces' status," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA criticized the Georgian side for insisting on limiting the number of peacekeepers deployed in South Ossetia to 200 or 350 on each side. "People in Tshkinvali fear that if on the eve of the deployment of separating forces statements by Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani and Eduard Shevardnadze on the need to reduce this contingent are heeded the multi-lateral forces will be unable to realistically promote a ceasefire, because warring Georgian units are numerically stronger."

Newspapers report a press conference by Romanian President Ion Iliescu on the results of his visit to Byelarus. Iliescu said that reports that Romanian soldiers are fighting in the Dniester conflict on Moldova's side are "blunt lies." According to him, Romanian officers were in Moldova as part of a joint commission of observers. He also denied reports that Romania supplied tanks and aircraft to Moldova.

"We have supplied armoured vehicles," he said, adding that Romania is also sending "defensive weapons for the infantry."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports a meeting between Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

The sides aimed to "develop Russian-Moldovan dialogue on a settlement in the Dniester region." Participants reached an agreement to continue their contacts. The meeting was held behind closed doors and more detailed information was unavailable.

The newspaper reports violations by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry of the Dagomys agreements, saying that the military commandant of Sevastopol and his subordinates on July 9 took an oath of allegiance to Ukraine. This "is a blatant violation of the Dagomys agreements, which provide for a moratorium on actions, affecting the integrity of the fleet by both sides," the newspaper writes.

Newspapers comment on an upcoming debate in the Russian parliament about the press. Parliament is "preparing for the press, television and radio a tight leash," which is worse than during the diktat of the Communist Party, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes.

A group of mass media managers has sent a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, blasting decisions passed by the parliament presidium on Monday as "an unprecedented campaign to suffocate the freedom of speech and press, nearing completion."

The authors of the letter reminded Yeltsin about what he had said previously: "Russia has suffered a lot because the mass media was so obedient. As president I will do all I can to prevent the repetition of old times."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA quoted TASS Director-General Vitaly Ignatenko, who said that he "was concerned by preparations of a new bill on the mass media."

Commenting on the trial over the Soviet Communist Party, the newspaper cited Yelena Lukyanova, daughter of former Soviet Parliament Speaker Anatoliy Lukyanov who is now in the Matrosskaya Tishina prison. "I have now more reasons to believe that the Constitutional Court will stay within the legal framework, than before the beginning of the process," the lawyer said.

International

Foreign Ministry on FRY, Estonia, S. Ossetia

LD1407162192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Skrypnikov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a Moscow briefing on Tuesday [14 July], commenting on the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry concerning the recent clashes between Estonian paramilitary groups and Russian troops that these events were largely prompted by a lack of progress at the talks on troop withdrawal.

He added that "it is necessary to find solutions and determine a timetable", which will calm down "passions flying high in the Baltic states in connection with Russian troops".

"We believe that it is desirable and necessary for authorities in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania to take all measures to prevent such incidents against Russian troops," the spokesman added.

He also noted that the Foreign Ministry does not examine, for the time being, the introduction of a visa regime for Estonian citizens travelling to Russia, as Estonia has done.

Speaking of a possibility of advancing Russian initiatives to settle the Yugoslav crisis "outside the U.N. framework", Yastrzhembskiy said: "We should like to see ourselves in the same international community of countries exerting efforts to fulfil the U.N. Security Council's resolutions.

"We believe that these resolutions have a sufficient potential. It is necessary to fill the provisions of Security Council resolutions with practical work."

As for the dispatch of Commonwealth of Independent States' peace- keeping forces to South Ossetia, the spokesman noted that the Dagomys agreements which were elaborated upon at the Istanbul meeting and confirmed at the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze in Helsinki, give hope "in the spirit of cautious optimism" that South Ossetia will be the first region in the former USSR to end a conflict situation through political means.

"We believe that the dispatch of disengagement troops (the dispatch of a Russian battalion began on Tuesday) will be a new step in this process," Yastrzhembskiy concluded.

'Yugoslavia Is No Iraq'

OW1507130192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1213 GMT 15 Jul 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama" by diplomatic correspondent I. Porshnev; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian diplomacy has been following the development of events in and around the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia very closely, a prominent member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told Diplomatic Panorama's correspondent.

He qualified the concentration of NATO and West European Union warships at the coast of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) as "a form of exerting pressure".

According to the diplomat, a similar scenario was taking shape also in the Persian Gulf before the UN Security Council authorized the use of force against Iraq.

"But Yugoslavia is no Iraq", the diplomat pointed out. He made it clear that if the UN Security Council decides to consider the possibility of military intervention to end the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Russia might find itself in an "extremely complicated position". According to him, it would be very hard for Russia to display full solidarity with the world community's approach to this issue "both for domestic considerations and for the reason of traditionally friendly ties with the Serbs".

When asked about the possibility of Russia's using its right to veto when this issue is put to the vote at the Security Council, the diplomat evaded reply. It's necessary to clearly distinguish two possible versions, he said.

It's one thing if under the Security Council's decision military force, such as aircraft, is used against the pockets of resistance or combat operations on the soil of Bosnia and Hercegovina to create "humanitarian corridors" there.

And it's quite another thing if the UN Security Council decides to authorize preemptive strikes on some hinterland objectives in the territory of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) for the purpose of "ensuring the creation of such corridors".

According to the diplomat, the situation concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina "gets more complicated" as the time of presidential elections in the USA draws nearer. The G. Bush Administration toughens its stand with a view to gaining support from a greater number of voters.

Nevertheless the Russian diplomat has not abandoned the hope for a political solution to the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina. According to him, certain political changes in Belgrade, particularly the appointment of the Serbian-born American Milan Panic, who is known for his pragmatism and adherence to the political methods of settling conflicts, as Yugoslav Prime Minister, give rise to "cautious optimism".

Border Guards Monitor Estonian Border Traffic

LD1507124692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Scherbakova]

[Text] St. Petersburg July 15 TASS—Russian Border Guards appeared on the border with Estonia on Wednesday [15 July]. For the time being they will selectively control transport vehicles and gather information about border traffic, according to commander of the north-western border district Konstantin Pleshko.

In future, border guard posts and check points will close the 750-kilometre long border between the two former Soviet Republics.

The construction of all the necessary border facilities and housing for the personnel will require some 10 billion roubles.

Estonia is now demanding a visa from Russians to enter the republic.

Georgian Delegate on Meeting With Russian Deputies

AU0907143092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Interview with Irakli Kadagishvili, member of the Georgian State Council delegation, at the meeting with Russian parliamentary leaders in Moscow on 8 July—recorded]

[Text] We are pleased with today's meeting with Russia's parliamentary (?leaders) [words indistinct] we wanted to achieve and what we planned in Tbilisi prior to our coming here has, for all intents and purposes, been achieved. We had planned for this to be the first meeting, the first contact with leaders of the Russian parliament, and that it would be proposed that parliamentary cooperation was necessary. This tradition has not existed previously. Cooperation should begin.

The Russian parliamentary leaders showed great interest in this. We had a fairly warm meeting and one can say that it ended successfully. They told us that they would present concrete bases, concrete plans, and concrete commissions. They said that from this point of view, they would give full support and get involved in the work. A Russian parliamentary delegation will arrive in Georgia, and it was promised that they would not enter the Tskhinvali region without permission from Georgia. They would first come to Tbilisi to meet with state representatives and then travel to different regions in Georgia where there are, let us say, common interests and problems. There are grounds for optimism that an agreement has been reached, an agreement in principle. Of course, there will be difficulties in the path of this agreement, very many. [Words indistinct] this agreement exists. There will be many objective and subjective difficulties, but the main direction of our State Council policy precisely (?proceeds from the fact) that Georgia is building an independent democratic state. Its internal and foreign policies will be subordinate to Georgian interests and the interests of building a democratic civilized state. Proceeding from this, no matter what contradictions (?arise)—one constantly encounters contradictions in politics—we have to (?overcome them).

Gaydar, Lithuanians Discuss Accounts Settlement

LD1007013792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting between a Lithuanian delegation, headed by Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, and Yegor Gaydar was held in Moscow. The talks dealt first with settling mutual accounts and were held behind closed doors. As has become known, the Lithuanian side remained unsatisfied with the results of the meeting, in particular, with the fact that Moscow can guarantee Vilnius only budget payments, i.e. practically compensation of expenses conditioned by the presence on the Russian Army on the Lithuanian territory. Gaydar only suggested that the Lithuanian side either does not supply goods to Russia at all or demands prepayment. Russia, he said, will also demand money for this in advance. Besides, the acting prime minister of Russia warned that beginning in August Lithuania will have to switch to world prices in payments for supplies from Russia.

Romanian 'Frankness' on Moldova Weapons Welcomed

PM1407104992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Maksim Gan: "Romania Officially Admits Supplying Weapons to Moldova"]

[Text] REUTER reports that a Romanian Defense Ministry spokesman officially stated Friday [10 July] that Bucharest is supplying weapons to Moldova—in his words, to help the former Soviet republic to "set up its own armed forces."

The Defense Ministry statement points out that a total of 2,000 automatic weapons and several armored vehicles and artillery pieces were dispatched to Moldova.

Romania has finally admitted something that everyone in the Dniester region had been sure of for some time, that many people in Moscow knew, and that had been denied in Chisinau.

Bucharest's admission that it is providing military aid to Chisinau was not unexpected, much less surprising. Following the visit to Moldova by a group of UN experts it had become virtually impossible to deny the military cooperation between the two countries.

Nonetheless, it is hard to overestimate the importance of Bucharest's official statement, even if the weapons shipments admitted in the statement may seem insignificant. Judging by everything, this step attests to Romania's desire, albeit belated, to establish a frank dialogue

between the warring parties. At the same time, the Romanian Parliament has stated that the bloodshed in the Dniester region can only be stopped by political means.

Frankness among the sides involved in the confrontation not only creates the prerequisites for dialogue but also paves the way for further diplomatic steps to settle the Dniester conflict.

Developments in Kuril Islands Dispute Reported

PM1307095792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Symptoms of Crisis in Russian-Japanese Relations"]

[Text] Tokyo—In the peaceful, unhurried flow of bilateral Russian-Japanese relations a tendency has emerged recently which could become serious if it is allowed to "diverge." It is a case of the "exchange of courtesies" at top level between the two partners in a dialogue whose tone differs markedly from the compromise formulas inherent in the bilateral contacts of the past two years.

First there was a statement in Japan, couched in a tough style far removed from diplomatic tact, by Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, in which, speaking of the approaches toward the territorial problem, he accused the Russian side of lying and duplicity. After that the session of the bilateral working group on a peace treaty, planned for June, was deferred at the Russian side's request. There followed President Yeltsin's interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in which he accused the Japanese of "evading" granting economic aid to Russia, and there was also a meeting with Sato, chairman of the Japanese-Russian trade association, where the idea was voiced that Russia will not tolerate pressure from outside and will talk with Tokyo about the territorial question only if advances appear in economic relations. This Russian "volley" was met in Japan with particular displeasure since Japanese aid worth 6.5 billion yen has already been given to Russia. The direct response was a series of statements by Prime Minister Miyazawa in which first, he declared the attainment of a consensus within the framework of the "big seven" regarding support for the Japanese stance on the territorial dispute with Russia; second, he expressed himself against including Moscow in the "club of seven;" and third, he voiced serious doubts that Russia would receive credit from the West within the deadline on which it is counting.

All these elements taken together enable observers to say with sufficient justification that bilateral relations have reached a certain borderline beyond which a simple choice emerges. Either a period of cooling is coming, putting in doubt President Yeltsin's Tokyo visit planned for September, or a new compromise will be found which will remove the present tension. Can Tokyo "throttle back" and avoid pinning its partner to the wall? It is this which is difficult to expect, since the Japanese will hardly let slip the chance of bringing massive pressure to bear on Moscow within the framework of the "club of seven" and through bilateral contacts. As for Russian approaches, many people in Tokyo believe that our present administration is perhaps even interested in displaying ostentatious toughness, thus sparing itself from accusations of "softness" and "conciliatoriness" which are being heard increasingly loudly on the domestic "fronts."

Sakhalin Governor on Shift in Stance

PM1007090192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Jul 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under the "News" rubric: "Governor on Russia's Position on the Kurils"]

[Text] "If Minister Andrey Kozyrev's statement that Russia does not intend to hand the Kuril Islands over to Japan is true, then we are talking about a change in our Foreign Ministry's position on the 'northern territories' issue," this was Sakhalin Oblast Governor Valentin Fedorov's comment on the recent remarks made by the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry. He still insists that President Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo should be postponed from September to a later date. In V. Fedorov's opinion, a serious error was made when the time frame for the trip was settled: The Russian Government was hoping to overcome the crisis in the domestic economy by this time. However, according to the governor's forecast, the crisis will intensify within the next few months and continue next year. In this situation, optimum solutions for Russia regarding the territorial problem are unlikely.

Further on Governor's Comments

LD1307130792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Any discussion in which doubt is cast on the territorial integrity of the Kuril Islands will henceforth take place without the participation of Sakhalin Oblast Governor Valentin Fedorov.

Today in an official announcement to ITAR-TASS he said that in Russia's ruling bodies a series of discussions is taking place on the fate of the southern Kuril Islands in connection with the upcoming visit to Tokyo by President Boris Yeltsin.

Notwithstanding all his respect for federal bodies of power, as the governor of Sakhalin Oblast, he believes it would be unacceptable for him to take part in discussions in which doubt is cast on the status of this integral part of Sakhalin Oblast. He also considers such participation as being below his Russian dignity. He would also like to warn that certain democratic figures are taking on the heavy responsibility of imposing a capitulatory policy and the possible creation of an acute conflict in the Far East. It is not enough to be a democrat. You must be a patriot, first and foremost. The southern Kuril Islands are Russian soil and shall remain so.

Rumors of Treaty Giving Kurils to Japan Denied

PM1507083592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denies Rumors of a Secret Treaty With Japan on the Kuril Islands"]

[Text] The latest session of the Russian-Japanese working group on the preparation of the text of a peace treaty will take place in Tokyo 15-16 July. The Russian side is represented by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze.

IZVESTIYA has been informed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the territorial issue is likely to be the most complicated on the agenda. The text of the peace treaty, in the opinion of the sides, should take into consideration the provisions of the Joint Declaration of 1956, but as of today the working documents contain no formula for territorial demarcation.

The Foreign Ministry representative has categorically denied claims that the Russian Government is preparing a secret treaty handing islands of the Kuril chain to Japan, calling them absurd. Such a a possibility existed after August last year, but the country's new leadership has taken a different course, subjecting the essence of the territorial problem to glasnost. The peace treaty, whatever form it takes in the future, will be subject to ratification by parliament, the Foreign Ministry believes.

In conversation with journalists, Kunadze said that the topic of the islands, which came up at the G-7 session in Munich, is not some new element. Japan raised this question before, when the club of the most developed countries consisted of six members. The only new event is that the territorial problem has found reflection in the G-7's documents. Moreover, the West did not change its stance on this issue but simply assured itself that "it is possible to talk with the new Russia in the language of law and justice." "As for Russia's position, we are against the internationalization of the territorial problem," G. Kunadze stressed. "The question should be settled between ourselves and Japan on a bilateral basis."

Deputies Affirm Transfer of Kurils Not Option

PM1407183192 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 1

[Letter to Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin from Russian Federation People's Deputies V.S. Surganov, G.N. Sorokin, L.S. Shipovalova, V.A. Boyko, V.G. Kuzmin, and others: "Hands Off the Kurils!"]

[Text] To Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich!

Today, at this troubled time for our fatherland, your inaccessibility in the Kremlin forces us to warn you publicly against the intrigues of a handful of your closest advisers which are proving extremely dangerous for Russia for they are surreptitiously pushing you toward a step which threatens the Russian state with catastrophic consequences.

Back in the fall of last year, during a discussion in the Russian parliament on the fate of the four Kuril Islands, your presidential advisers assured us that they would not yield one inch of Russian land to foreigners without a decision from the people. However, just one and a half months later they gave you a written plan for the phased handover of the Southern Kurils to the Japanese.

The first stage envisaged appropriate manipulation of public opinion via the Russian press. At the same time, it was recommended that the Japanese Government be confidentially informed of Russia's readiness to hand over the four islands in 1992. During the second stage, it was proposed that during a visit to Japan you make a gift of the islands of the Lesser Kuril chain, stipulating a five-year deadline for the final dismantling of Russian administration there. Then, after the inevitable indignation of the Russians has abated, a third stage is planned—toward the end of 1992 to indulge the Japanese by handing over the islands of Iturup and Kunashir, again with a five-year deadline for us to evacuate. By way of a response, you restricted yourself at that time to a laconic direction on the conspirators' memorandum: "Must be discussed."

Now the heinous deed has already been virtually fulfilled by the servile press, Japanese diplomats were informed about all of this back in January of this year, and now on the eve of your September trip to Tokyo they continue intensively to incite you to hand over the first pair of our islands to Japan. It is still not too late! Renounce this shameful undertaking, Mr. President!

It is immoral to deprive Russia of part of its territory unbeknown to the country's parliament and without a universal referendum. It is a criminal violation of the Russian Federation Constitution. It is deception of the Supreme Soviet and of all Russians in general, and it is a clear invitation to all foreign claimants to Russian lands to try to pillage us too, exploiting Russia's temporary weakness and its economic crisis, the political instability, and the current state of the Army. Territorial concessions on any pretext are pernicious, especially concessions which destroy Russia's defense capability in the East.

What if Japan's powerful Chinese neighbor revives its claims, as a beginning, to two chunks of our Amur region, including even the suburbs of Khabarovsk? The Estonian and Latvian authorities, having stripped hundreds and thousands of Russian and Russian-speaking residents of their civil rights, are already laying claim to vast regions of Pskov Oblast. Foreign expansionists from the west and the east are eyeing up Kaliningrad Oblast, which also became a "Russian island" recently. To the north in Finland, influential forces are openly expressing

their desire to swallow up Karelia. There are many such bids. A revision of the results of World War II could push the people of the world along the path toward World War III. If we hand over the South Kurils, tomorrow an avalanche of aggressive claims to our land will ensue. Even inside Russia we will be unable to avoid a stormy explosion of separatism and bloody discord.

Appealing to the statesmanship and patriotic duty of the president elected by the people, we, regardless of our various attitudes toward you, are united now in our desire to protect the authority of presidential power—the key guarantee of stability, progress, democracy, and Russia's territorial integrity—from the handful of plotters. We hope that for you too, Boris Nikolayevich, Russia's national interests will stand above everything else. There can be no question of handing over the South Kurils to anybody, and equally there can be no question of any other violation of Russia's territorial integrity.

[Signed] Russian Federation People's Deputies: V.S. Surganov, G.N. Sorokin, L.S. Shipovalova, V.A. Boyko, V.G. Kuzmin—52 signatures in all.

Relations With Japan on Eve of Talks Viewed

PM1507092792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 7

[Yuriy Vdovin article: "Russia-Japan: Period of Cooling?"]

[Text] It seems that Russian-Japanese relations, which have been marked by slow but steady improvement lately, are entering a period of cooling.

Last year was marked by unambiguous statements by official representatives of the legal successor to the USSR that the time had come to resolve the issue of territorial demarcation between the two countries based on the principle of "legality and justice." These statements were seen by Tokyo as betokening a readiness on Moscow's part to make substantial concessions on the problem of the "northern territories," returning at least two of the islands and continuing talks on the other two.

In the Land of the Rising Sun they made no secret of the fact that they were ready to increase their own efforts to resolve this task. This they did in two areas. On the one hand, the Japanese were able to use some of the Russian mass media to propagandize their own approach to the problem of the "northern territories" with the aim of altering public opinion inside Russia in favor of their claims. On the other hand, Tokyo put a lot of effort into imparting an international character to the problem, using the G-7 conference in Munich, in particular, for this. The Russian Foreign Ministry displayed a certain passivity in neutralizing these actions, which was taken in Japan as a sign of consent to such a line. Everything seemd to indicate that Japan was getting closer and closer to success in this campaign.

But Japan was then caught, suddenly noticing that the course it had mapped out was experiencing hitches. The transfer of the "northern territories" to Japan was being resolutely resisted by the public and the majority of Russians, particularly the inhabitants of the Far East. This is shown not just by the stream of letters to the mass media, but by speeches made at local level too. The attitude toward Japan's attempts to impart an international character to the problem of the "northern territories" was mixed, and although an appropriate clause was introduced into the final document, the G-7 was inclined on the whole to regard the problem of the "northern territories" as a matter for bilateral relations.

All this forced Moscow to adjust its course in relation to its eastern neighbor. To start with the Russian president expressed himself in pretty sharp terms on the questions of economic aid from Japan, which even caused an official "firm protest" from Tokyo. The Japanese were also put out by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister G. Kunadze, who stated that "Russia opposes the internationalization of the territorial problem between it and Japan. This issue should be resolved between the two countries on a bilateral basis."

The second session of the Japanese-Russian group on the peace treaty is scheduled for 15-16 July. In Tokyo they expect, according to YOMIURI, that Russia in proclaiming the principle of "legality and justice" should recognize as a consequence of this that the four islands are Japanese territory, promising in return to adopt a more flexible position themselves on the issue. For the Russian side this meeting presents a good opportunity to demonstrate its true course on the problem of territorial demarcation. How it does this will determine the direction in which relations between the two neighbors develop.

Peace Treaty Talks Open 15 Jul

LD1507052592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0450 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Slontsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 15 Jul—The first hours of the meeting of the working group on a peace treaty between Russia and Japan, which opened in Tokyo today, were mainly devoted to agreeing on the agenda for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan scheduled for 14-15 September. The Russian delegation is headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Georgiy Kunadze and the Japanese delegation by Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito.

The sides also exchanged views on the importance both countries attribute to the first summit visit in the history of Japan's relations with the new Russia. As expected, the Japanese delegation touched on the question of the inclusion, in the political declaration of the recent conference of the leaders of the seven leading industrially developed countries in Munich, of a provision relating to the territorial problem in Russo-Japanese relations:

Tokyo is trying to present this as evidence of an alleged coincidence of views by the seven countries on this issue. At the same time, however, the ITAR-TASS correspondent established that the Japanese side voiced the idea that Tokyo does not wish this to be interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure on Russia. The meeting will continue today and, evidently, on Thursday. The sides are expected to discuss the drafts of a joint statement and other documents that could be adopted during Boris Yeltsin's visit, including agreements between Russia and Japan on cooperation in exploiting space and in preventing incidents at sea. The question of holding talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries just before the summit visit will also be discussed.

Role of Treaty, Aid Viewed

LD1507141292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A two-day meeting of the Russian-Japanese peace treaty working group has opened in Tokyo today. The sides are coordinating the program for Yeltsin's visit which is coming up in September and discussing the drafts of joint documents due to be adopted. The main subject under discussion is the territorial issue. Without resolving it the signing of the peace treaty will remain a wishful dream.

[Correspondent Vykhukholev] The Russian side has postponed the current round of talks for a whole month, wishing thereby to express its dissatisfaction over the the publication by the Japanese of a brochure on the northern territories in Russian. As a result the Russian side has found itself at a disadvantage.

The political declaration of the G-7's recent meeting included for the first time a provision dealing with the territorial question. Thus, the problem has gone beyond the realm of bilateral relations and assumed international importance. No doubt taking this into account, the Prime Minister Miyazawa said yesterday that Japan cannot give any fully fledged economic aid to Russia until the peace treaty is concluded.

The point of this unveiled pressure is clear. Japan is expecting from Yeltsin's visit above all concessions in the territorial dispute. Hoping for concessions in return, Tokyo has recently put forward a plan for handing over of the southern Kurils in two stages, giving Russia the right of administrative management in Kunashir and Turup for the time being, provided Japanese sovereignty there is recognized.

The Russian side, which has stated its readiness to tackle problems on a basis of legality and justice, is required to give its answer, despite its internal difficulties, unprepared public opinion, and sinister predictions by some people's deputies of a third world war if the islands are given away.

However the Russian position on the Kuril problem is perhaps less clear now than ever before. True, in the two months remaining until the visit, we will have to make our position clear.

Official Comments on Sino-Russian Border Talks

OW1407081692 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 0900 GMT 12 Jul 92

[From the "Current Events and Commentary" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: The first meeting of the Russian-Chinese Joint Committee for Delimiting the Border closed in Moscow on 9 July. The Russian side was headed by Special Envoy Kireev, who was responsible for boundary affairs in the Foreign Ministry. He told our reporter Solovyev: The Russian-Chinese Joint Committee for Delimiting the Border held its meeting in Moscow from 29 June to 9 July. This is undoubtedly an important event—an unprecedented event in the history of Soviet-Chinese relations and of Russian- Chinese relations, at least. Now bilateral relations are generally on an unprecedented level. This is the first time in several decades that Russia and China have reached an agreement on their boundary, which was legally demarcated by the Agreement on the Eastern Section of the Soviet-Chinese Border on 16 May 1991. However, the eastern section of the border is not the border of Russia and China alone.

It is noteworthy that the Russian Parliament has approved the agreement without making any revisions. This fully shows that Russia is faithful to all commitments the former Soviet Union has made to the international community. Legally fixing the boundary makes it possible to delimit the border line, which is a very difficult task. In accordance with international law, for example, the margin for error in setting up a land boundary marker should be under 10 ml not to mention the very long land boundary between the two countries and the complex nature of delimiting the river boundary.

Kireev noted: The first meeting of the Russian-Chinese Joint Committee for Delimiting the Border held that the border delimitation could be completed in a few years. This seems feasible, as the level of cooperation and mutual understanding between Russia and its Chinese partner may make it possible to solve problems speedily and with great efficiency. I believe this is the way it will be in the future. In addition, it is very helpful to us to have representatives of administrative departments from Russian-Chinese border areas in the committee.

Special Envoy Kireev said: The inception of the Russian-Chinese border delimitation has, in principle, boosted good-neighborly relations between the two countries to a new level, which is of great significance. We should understand that the border issue is the most difficult problem we have inherited from the past Russo-Chinese relations. It is very important that we have entered the last stage of solving this problem. This is another giant

step that Russia and China have taken on the road to consolidating good- neighborly relations.

First Round Complete

LD1407163492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Here in Moscow, Russia and China have completed the first round of their negotiations on the demarcation of their border in its eastern part. More from Konstantin (?Garibov).

It's for the first time in their relations that Russia and China have got down to stipulating their common border in terms of law. Although the frontier began to be fixed in the form of treaties as far back as the last century it has never been demarcated nor its terrain has been shown in relief. [sentence as heard] The task of the joint commission which just had its first session in Moscow is to define the boundaries specified and described by an intergovernmental agreement. Signed in May last year, the accord has been ratified by the Parliaments of both countries. It concerns a long section 4300 kms long from the junction of the Russo-Sino-Mongolian borders to that of the Russo-Sino-Korean frontier. Since the bulk of the border crosses rivers this complicates the painstaking process of demarcating the frontier with posts and signs and civilizing it.

To avoid ambiguous and one-sided interpretation, demarcation should be scrupulously monitored to check its compliance with the law. Such documents were signed in Moscow, as the chief Russian delegate to the talks, special envoy Genrikh Kireyev has explained in an interview with Radio Moscow. The basic document is that on the Russo-Sino Demarcation Commission. It determines the tasks and functions of the commission and lists the instructions and documents to be adopted for work on terrain.

The discussion revealed goodwill and desire to come to terms. As a result, regulations were passed to demarcate the border in its eastern part. Mr. Kireyev explained that no complex issues on which the sides have failed to agree had remained. Final touches are to be put into a few more documents at the second of the Russo-Sino Demarcation Commission in Peking in September.

'Acts of Provocation' Reported on Chinese Border

PM1407120592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 1

[I. Kots report: "The Fall Has Not Yet Begun, But There Have Already Been Casualties"]

[Text] A major fight occurred last weekend on the Russian-Chinese border. On Saturday [11 July] border post chief S. Shutofedov was seriously wounded while attempting to expel border violators who were fishing right on our bank, not far from Khabarovsk. One of the uninvited guests struck the major in the head with a boat hook and stabbed him in the shoulder. Fortunately, the initial diagnosis—a fracture of the base of the skull—was not confirmed, I was informed by V. Belyayev, chief of the hospital to which Shutofedov was taken.

On Sunday at least a dozen Chinese junks attacked a civilian motor barge, the ST-539, on the Amur, demanding diesel from the captain. When refused, the "pirates" hurled rocks and bottles at the vessel. The wheelhouse was damaged and Captain V. Matsypuri sustained an eye injury.

Such acts of provocation are, alas, becoming common on this "warm" border. It is for diplomats to determine whether they have political ramifications, but the bandaged head of Major Shutofedov still aches from thinking about the coming salmon fishing season—the fall months that Chinese poachers so enjoy.

Guards Prevent Border Violations

LD1407125592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1136 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Blagoveschensk—The attempt to violate Russian border by a group of Chinese citizens was stopped [?by] Russian border guards in the vicinity of Blagoveschensk Amur Region. July 13 press bureau of Far East border district informed that Chinese tourists staying in Blagoveschensk Hou Tzyan and Lyn Saolyan prepared illegal transportation of their compatriots across the border, hoping to get 0.5 million yuans. The first 50-people party was to get from Blagoveschensk to Moscow and further to Czechoslovakia. Hou Tzyan and Lyn Saolyan picked out the exact place to cross the Amur in Amur region, hired buses, bought railway tickets to Moscow, booked the hotel in Blagoveschensk. The crossing was planned to be executed by means of 12 rubber inflated boats. Border guards detained Hou Tzyan and Lyn Saolyan in the course of illegal crossing. The Chinese citizens are prosecuted by law. Hou Tzyan and Lyn Saolyan were transported to the Chinese side after the appeal of the representative of Chinese border guards. There they were immediately arrested by the public security organs.

According to the officer of Far East Border Command who wished to remain anonymous this not the 1st attempt to set up channels for people and goods smuggling to Russia and via Russia to other countries at the Russian-Chinese border.

Agreement Signed With FRG on Russian Germans

LD1107085192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 10 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Krolikov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow July 10 TASS—Head of the Russian Committee for Ethnic Affairs Valeriy Tishkov and

German Interior Ministry State Secretary Horst Waffenschmidt signed a protocol on Friday [10 July] committing Russia and Germany to promote the revival of statehood, history and culture of Russian Germans.

The protocol continues a series of talks on the issue held by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his visit to Germany last year.

Waffenschmidt, who has been authorised by the German Government to handle the problem of Russian Germans, said that by signing the protocol Russia reiterated its adherence to a gradual restoration of the Autonomous Republic of Russian Germans in the Volga region.

FRG Aviation Delegation Visits Counterparts

PM0907144092 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Rudenko: "Calling on the Airmen"]

[Text] At the invitation of the Air Force leadership, a delegation from the FRG Air Force military transport aviation command, headed by Major General H.-J. Shtrebnek [name as received], has arrived in Moscow.

The delegation members were received by Colonel General of Aviation V. Yefanov, commander of military transport aviation.

On that occasion, and also later at the Russian Government Commission for Humanitarian Aid, the Bundeswehr military transport command leaders took a special interest in the participation of Russian military airmen in delivering humanitarian aid cargoes, the main bulk of which, as is well known, come to us from the FRG. The sides discussed and coordinated their efforts in this noble cause.

The program for the visit includes a visit to the combat readiness and retraining center for military transport aviation personnel, and also to a military transport aviation combined unit. The Russian military airmen's guests will become acquainted with their colleagues' life and combat training and will go on board an An-22 Antey, an Il-76, an An-124 Ruslan, and other aircraft in the military transport aviation armory.

Moscow To Establish Embassy, Consulate in RSA

OW1007153092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Report by Igor Porshev and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's acting prime minister Yegor Gaydar has ordered for the Austrian embassy's section representing Russian interests in South Africa to be transformed into a Russian embassy which will employ 16 diplomats.

Seven other diplomats are being assigned to the Russian general consulate in Cape Town, with a tentative salary of $1,300 a month (at the USSR Bank's exchange rate of $1 to Rbl [ruble] 0.6 on June 19, 1991).

Permanent salaries are to be fixed within six months on arrival to the country of posting.

Security Archives Fail to Reveal Fate of POW's

LD1307140392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 13 TASS—The Russian Security Ministry's archives have so far failed to reveal the fate of American POWs and MIAs of the Second World War, the "cold war" period or the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Experts searched for the whereabouts of 3,752 American citizens using the ministry archives. The search was based on a list of names compiled by the U.S. side. All rumours concerning the ministry's attempts to block the search were completely unfounded, according to spokesman of the Security Ministry Vladimir Goncharov.

The search did uncover some interesting material for the American side about four U.S. servicemen who deserted in the Japanese port of Yokosuka in the Autumn of 1967. At the request of a Japanese pacifist organization and at their own expense, the deserters were transferred through the USSR to Sweden.

Deputy Foreign Minister on DPRK Relations

MK1107135192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jul 92 p 4

[Report by Anatoliy Petrovskiy under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Russian and Korean—Brothers Forever. Russia's Vice President and Foreign Minister Acknowledge That the Treaty with North Korea Is Still Valid"]

[Text] Generalissimo Kim Il-song must be feeling a sense of profound satisfaction. The latest anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and the DPRK was marked in Moscow at a high political level. Despite the fact that it was not a round figure this time (the historic document was signed 31 years ago), the reception at the North Korean Embassy was attended by high-level Russian guests: Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze. They assured the ambassador that the treaty, which was concluded at a time when both states belonged to the same "peace camp" and adhered to the principles of "socialist internationalism," remains in force for present-day Russia. In this way the North Korean leadership received a kind of compensation for the anxieties and agitation occasioned in Pyongyang by the recent visit of South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok to the CIS.

"The 1961 treaty," Georgiy Kunadze told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, "contains certain wording that is archaic from today's positions, but the main thing for us is not this wording but the essence. The USSR-DPRK treaty is one element of the international legal legacy which we inherited from the former Soviet Union. A selective approach to this legacy is not possible. We have accepted it the way it was, and we intend to fulfill the commitments stemming from it. This applies also to the treaty with the DPRK."

"Russia and the DPRK," the deputy foreign minister emphasized, "are united by common interests and a common commitment to maintaining stability on the Korean Peninsula. We believe that the treaty makes an effective contribution to the cause of stability. Consequently, it benefits not only our two countries but also all states which seek to eliminate the hotbed of tension which still exists in this region even after the end of the Cold War. I believe that the treaty, the latest anniversary of whose conclusion we have just celebrated, must be regarded as a constituent part of the legal context which also includes the treaties concluded by South Korea."

Let us remember that the USSR was the only country to maintain diplomatic relations with both Korean states, and it passed them down to Russia.

UN To Help in Democratic Transformation

OW1007130292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Mnistry is charged with the responsibility to conduct negotiations with the UN in order to develop and to sign an agreement on cooperation and assistance to Russia in implementing the democratic transformations, states a resolution of the Russian Government signed by the acting Premier Yegor Gaydar.

The resolution notes that the agreement with the UN must envisage rendering aid to Russia "so as foreign experts could make an expertise of draft laws to examine their compliance with the international standards in the sphere of human rights".

The agreement is supposed to include certain statements concerning "training of staff of the state agencies, development of teaching and editing activity in this sphere".

Government Prepares To Join Council of Europe

OW0907132292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1200 GMT 9 Jul 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by "diplomatic correspondent" I. Porshnev and "others"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The legislation of the Russian Federation should be brought in conformity with the generally accepted standards of the Council of Europe in the area of human rights and democratic institutions. This is stated in a resolution on the measures of preparation for joining the Council of Europe signed by President Boris Yeltsin. DP [Diplomatic Panorama] has the text of the resolution at its disposal.

The resolution obliges Russia's Foreign Ministry, Interior Ministry and Justice Ministry to submit their proposals in regard to the signing of the European convention on human rights and basic freedoms by the Russian Federation.

The Foreign and Finance Ministries are instructed to conduct negotiations with Council of Europe institutions on the amount of Russia's annual contribution to the budget of the Council of Europe, and on the "financial aspects of Russia's participation in the conventions and agreements of the Council of Europe".

There are plans to form a joint working group to consider the issues of cooperation with the Council of Europe. Russia's Foreign Ministry will act as its coordinator. The group will also include officials from the Interior Ministry, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and Tourism and other ministries and departments.

Under the Russian President's resolution the Foreign Ministry is to work "together with interested organizations" to open the Council of Europe's information center in Moscow.

Commentary on Yeltsin's Concern Over Nationalism

LD1307180592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In his speech at the Helsinki meeting of the leaders of the CSCE member countries, the Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned about a new threat for the European security. President Yeltsin sees the danger in the militant nationalism that may replace the confrontation of ideologies. He has said that this disease may go out of control and involve a great number of people, even whole states. This disease has affected the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Nationalism has become the reason for bloody conflicts in Moldova, Ossetia, and Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. The conflicts that claimed the lives of thousands of people, that made many people flee their countries, that caused destruction and made hundreds of thousands of people suffer. Hostilities, attempts to use arms to impose one's will on others are the extreme form of nationalism but there are others, less dangerous forms of this disease, though they seem not to attract, so far, the close attention of the world community. They are the attempts to legalize national discrimination in some countries, for example, in the Baltic states. Such an approach, affecting the interests of millions of people, is alien to the elementary norms of ethics, to the sacred

principle of national freedom. Nationalism contradicts the logic of the political development in conditions when Europe is advancing towards restructuring and unity, when neighborliness and cooperation are becoming the main principles in the relations among the European states, nationalism means a return to the past, to the times of alienation and confrontation. Since the armed conflicts in Dniester and Transcaucasus, in Bosnia-Hercegovina and other regions create a real threat for the European security, President Yeltsin believes urgent, legal, political, information, and even military measures are needed to prevent this disease, otherwise it may become the plague of the 21st century.

Commentary on U.S. Halting Plutonium Production

LD1407224192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] President George Bush has announced that the United States is stopping the production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium and is urging other countries to enhance the existing measures on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as missiles and missile technology. Notes on the score [as heard] from our observer Yuriy Solton:

The American President has advanced a major initiative. The statement of the Russian president's press center circulated in Moscow on Tuesday [14 July] says that the significance and scale of the proposed action give no rise to doubts though it should be thoroughly studied by experts.

I'd like to remind you that three years ago the former Soviet Union stopped the production of enriched uranium and began to close down reactors for the production of plutonium. Russia is keeping up the policy as the successor to the USSR. Just as Washington, Moscow is concerned also about the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This is a paradox as a result. Russia and the United States agree on a two-thirds reduction of strategic, most destructive nuclear forces. Britain and France are reducing programs for the production of nuclear weapons. A draft international convention is ready to ban chemical arms and to destroy their stockpiles, but there are expanding possibilities for other countries to produce or get hold of weapons of mass annihilation and delivery vehicles.

Mr. Bush said quite justifiably that in this world where regional tension might unpredictably grow into war such armaments could cause destructive effects and menace international security. It's important that the United States, number one arms exporter, has now recognized the need to intensify national control over the sale of military and dual purpose goods. Such measures are also being taken in Russia.

One can understand the anxiety over the recent stance of the other three former Soviet republics besides Russia where nuclear weapons have been deployed since the break-up of the USSR. The situation has now been clarified. Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan have become full-fledged participants, along with Russia, in the treaty with the United States, in reducing strategic offensive weapons, and pledged their firm intention to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. [passage omitted]

Federation Affairs

Political Issues

Yeltsin Chairs Security Council Meeting

LD1507140192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1253 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, 15 July (ITAR-TASS)—Issues concerning Russia's state, military, political and economic interests were considered on 15 July at the latest session of the Russian Federation Security Council which took place here, chaired by Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president.

As the Russian president's press service reported, the concept of the organization of the Russian Armed Forces, the structure of the Russian Defense Ministry, and the tasks facing the Army's administrative bodies were discussed.

Taking into account the political processes which are occurring on the territory of the former USSR, and proceeding from Russia's national interests, matters concerning the creation of the borders of the Russian Federation were discussed.

The Security Council, the press service's report stresses, analysed the situation in Moldova and discussed the mechanisms for implementing the existing politcal accords on improving the situation in the region and on a cease-fire and a withdrawal of the forces involved in the conflict for a peaceful political settlement.

Yeltsin on Country as Guarantor of Human Rights

LD1407195692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1717 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—The world public, which formerly criticized the USSR for violations of human rights, now sees the new Russia as one of the guarantors and defenders of those rights, believes Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He said this on 14 July at a meeting with leaders of the Russian Supreme Soviet and Government.

The president's press service reports that the Russian head of state briefed participants in the meeting on the results of his talks in Munich with the G-7 members and spoke about how best to use the solidarity with Russia to strengthen the reforms, which the Western leaders expressed. Touching on the country's internal political situation, the president noted that the consolidation of

all healthy forces within society is required in order for the reforms to succeed. He stressed that close and constructive forms of cooperation between parliament and government are essential.

A considerable amount of time during the meeting was devoted to the situation surrounding the mass media. The president expressed his concern at the desire to place the press under the control of any one institute of power.

Kozyrev Questioned on 'Roundtable' Program

LD1407215592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1930 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—"The might of the Russian state will grow only from successes in democratic and economic reforms and not from building up military muscles. Russia is doomed to be a great power because of its economic, scientific and technical, and scientific potential. The only path to that is the democratic path." This is what Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated on 14 July on the Ekho Moskvy radio station. Also assembled in the studio where the minister was invited were journalists from the other mass media, forming a kind of "roundtable." Furthermore, the residents of the city were also able to ask Kozyrev questions during the live broadcast.

A few questions concerned the recent interview A. Kozyrev gave to IZVESTIYA, after which quite a few critical arrows were shot at the minister, both from political opponents and from individual government members. Explaining his position, A. Kozyrev stressed: This article was not so much about the direct threat of a coup but rather about the danger of a wave of neo-Bolshevism, which today is ready to sweep public consciousness. "I wanted to mobilize the public against this threat. As far as the rumors about my resignation are concerned, which were deliberately inspired in this connection, I must say that I do not intend to resign. The parallels being drawn between me and Shevardnadze are not entirely correct, inasmuch as I intend to continue the struggle for the preservation and development of the present-day foreign policy course," the minister said.

Some of the listeners of the radio station asked very aggressive questions. One of them, for instance, directly accused the minister of provoking the war in the Dniester region. "We are not to blame," said the minister, "for the fact that the leadership of the former Union and the CPSU refused to opt for creating coordinating mechanisms two years ago in order to preserve the USSR, but in a new form of equal community. Let us recall that the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Dniester region, and South Ossetia started to rage under that leadership. Today we are trying to mobilize the international mechanisms in order to resolve these problems." Thus, Russia, along with the Netherlands, has proposed setting up the post of a commissar within the CSCE framework to deal with the rights of ethnic minorities. This will be the mechanism to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking population in other republics.

Speaking about the CIS as a whole, one can say that its structures have started to work. In the last six months the mechanism for regular meetings at the level of heads of governments and states has been worked out. That is an important achievement. A range of agreements and accords on military, economic, and political issues has accumulated. In the opinion of the minister, the fear of the center, the restoration of military and police structures has been replaced among the CIS members today by the understanding of the need to cooperate in order to maintain peace.

Shokhin To Head Foreign Debt Working Group

OW1407182892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the instruction of acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, a working group has been formed to handle the negotiations on the foreign debt of the former USSR with its creditors. The group is headed by Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and includes among others Minister of Foreign Economic Relations P. Aven, Plenipotentiary Representative of the Russian Government for Contacts with International Financial Organizations K. Kagalovskiy, First Deputy Finance Minister A. Vavilov, Deputy Finance Minister A. Golovatiy, and the Chairperson of the Committee for the Management of the Operations of the Vneshekonombank of the USSR, Y. Poletayev.

The Central Bank of Russia is represented on the group by the head of the international operations department, A. Potemkin.

Khizha Appointed To Oversee Strategic Exports

PM1407132792 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

["Own Information" report under the "Appointment" rubric: "Russian COCOM: We Have No Secrets. Russian Government Deputy Chairman Georgiy Khizha Has Been Appointed Director of the Export Control Commission"]

[Text] This hitherto little-known commission has a long history—a little over 11 years. Its purpose is to monitor the export of raw materials and goods, the transfer of scientific and technical information, and so-called dual-purpose technologies that can be used both to develop general civilian products and weapons of mass destruction.

The Union system was strictly classified. It ceased to exist following the collapse of the Union. However, the legal vacuum was soon eliminated. This April a Russian Export Control Commission was established under the government by presidential decree. It carries out its former tasks, only openly, without excessive secrecy: It monitors the protection of Russian Federation state interests in foreign economic activity and defense industry conversion. An open, detailed list of products that may be exported has been compiled. It has been submitted for approval by the head of state.

Until recently Ye. Gaydar was responsible for the commission's work. The new appointment is clearly motivated by the ongoing redistribution of the work load among deputy chairmen of the government. It is also explicable from the professional viewpoint. Georgiy Khizha knows the defense industry well. After all, this industry is the most closely associated with monitoring the export of dual-purpose technologies. He has all the cards in his hand, as they say.

Vice Premiership Hinted at for A. Belyakov

MK1407130992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 1

["V.T." report under the "In Brief" rubric: "A. Belyakov New Vice Premier?"]

[Text] Acording to Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industralists and Entrepreneurs, the possibility of creating another post of vice premier in the government—for agriculture—and appointing Aleksandr Belyakov, the present head of the Leningrad Oblast administration, is being discussed in President Yeltsin's entourage. A number of deputies of the St. Petersburg Soviet (particularly the well-known radical Vitaliy Skoybeda) maintain that in his present post Belyakov does not display any particular desire to allocate land for private farms.

Kryuchkov Letter to Yeltsin Published

PM1307154592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jul 92 pp 1,2

["Slightly abbreviated" version of 3 July V. Kryuchkov letter to President Yeltsin from Matrosskaya Tishina prison: "Kryuchkov-Yeltsin: The Thunder Sounds Louder in the Silence of Matrosskaya Tishina"]

[Text] Mr President,

On 11 June television showed an interview with you on the subject of what has happened in and around Russia in the year since the beginning of your presidency. Russians themselves can gauge the year's results; they can see them and feel their effect on themselves and their dear ones. Incidentally, this applies not only to the inhabitants of Russia but to all citizens of the former Union.

During the television interview you were asked many questions. You addressed even more topics in your answers. In this connection I would like to dwell on one problem, the main one—what has happened to the great Soviet Union? Our compatriots need to know not only how you see this problem but also how close to reality is your assertion that the people to blame for the disintegration of the Union are those whom you called "putschists" in your interview.

You began and ended your interview with the August "putsch," noting with satisfaction and even malicious glee that its participants are languishing in Matrosskaya Tishina. The "putschists'" main guilt, as you stress in the television interview, lies in the disintegration of the Union; they were its grave-diggers, whereas you had allegedly not given a thought to getting rid of the Union. This claim, which has nothing in common with the truth, is being made to people in our country, and not only our country, who themselves witnessed those events of not so long ago and still retain in their memory everything that has happened in the last few years. The things they cannot forget also include your activity, statements, and actions. People, particularly in such an as yet still highly developed country like ours, have learned to analyze things independently and reach their own conclusions. You cannot have failed to notice that recently their assessments have increasingly frequently not coincided with yours.

Very many people have already discerned the main inherent characteristic of all your activity—a predilection for destruction rather than creation. During the two years up to August 1991 you channeled all of your energies exclusively into the destruction of the center, the "imperial Union," demolished literally everything that had been created before you, and tried to show what poor lives people live, while magnanimously showering them with promises. There were indeed many things that people needed, their lives were indeed less than perfect, and so both your criticism and your promises fell on fertile soil.

The decisive phase in the destruction of the Union began in the summer of 1990 after the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies adopted the Russian Declaration of Sovereignty and the primacy of Russian over Union laws. Nor was this fatal process halted by the 17 March 1991 nationwide referendum. Furthermore, in some respects the referendum even played into your hands—it lulled the people, people lost their vigilance, believing that the Union had received the requisite bolstering in the shape of the people's will, the support of the overwhelming majority of Soviet citizens. The referendum in no way stopped you or all those with you in opposing the preservation of the Union. The impression created is that it was precisely after the referendum that the opponents of the Union began to act even more single-mindedly, albeit with more guile.

On closer inspection it transpired that the referendum had been held as a distraction, as it were, and its results

were of absolutely no significance for the leaders. The people's will, would you believe! When has it ever been heeded, particularly by those whose main characteristic has always been only a pathological lust for power?

The draft Union Treaty which had been prepared retained virtually nothing of the federal nature of the USSR; at best it envisaged some kind of confederal formation bearing the name the Union of Sovereign States. Incidentally, there were so many opportunities and loopholes built into the draft Union Treaty to allow it to be further eroded that it required only a gentle nudge to make this fragile structure even more precarious and turn it into a fiction. Incidentally, this was very well understood by M. Gorbachev. Nevertheless this was the kind of treaty he went for, in the pitiful hope of surviving for a while and showing himself to the world in the position of the president—albeit a puppet president without rights—of the Union of Sovereign States. For some reason my question to Gorbachev about how he assessed the situation and what future he expected for the projected Union of Sovereign States brought the curious answer: "Well we'll hang on for 18 months or so."

But you, Boris Nikolayevich, continued to deal the Union blow after blow. You now say that you were hitting not the Union but the center in your struggle for Russia's rights. Strange logic! First, concepts such as the Union and the center are interconnected. What kind of a Union is there without a center? Second, the very declaration of the primacy of Russian over Union laws immediately turned the Union into an entity with no rights and essentially hammered the last nail into its coffin. Imagine a similar situation within the Russian Federation. What would then happen to Russia? Incidentally, such a process has already begun. You are one of the people who have set an active example of this, paving the way for what has happened and is happening today. You worked very hard! When you lacked the words you used your hands to indicate how few powers would be granted to the hated center and how many would go to Russia.

Why did you seek to complete the destruction of the Union as quickly as possible? There is an answer to this question, but that is a topic for another discussion—everything in its own good time...

In the above-mentioned interview you said—and I quote the newspaper IZVESTIYA for 11 June 1992: "Events between 12 June and 19 August (1991) developed in such a way that the main concern was the Union Treaty. We were counting on the continuation of the Union. We were merely fighting for more independence for ourselves and seeking to give fewer functions away to the Union leadership—that was our main task.

"The 19-20 August putsch turned everything upside down. It destroyed the Union... But another opportunity opened up in its place—the opportunity to become an independent Russian state with an independent domestic and foreign policy."

Independent of whom and of what, Boris Nikolayevich? It would be interesting to know. From time to time recently you have returned to the events of August last year and the sad fate of the Union. What lies behind your anxiety is clear and comprehensible. You see, people are already beginning to judge individual public figures by their contribution to the disintegration of the Union. Do you understand why? The disintegration of the Union is the most serious of tragedies, whose consequences we will feel for a long time to come, right until a real process of it revival begins—which I profoundly certain will happen. This same hope, I am convinced, is shared by the overwhelming majority of Soviet people. Russia was always a bulwark of the Union, but now we Russians have finally realized that, it transpires, the Union was equally a bulwark of Russia. Until the Union is reborn any words about Russia's greatness —no matter how eloquent or vociferous—will remain nothing but an empty noise. Hardly anybody would wish to answer to the people and to history for the wrecked destiny of the Soviet Union. It is therefore clear why you considered it necessary to say the following in the same television interview: "When I am accused of being to blame for the disintegration of the Union, I cannot agree and take the blame upon myself. It has to be laid at the door of the putschists. And, most probably, the leadership of the former Union."

It has long been clear that you do not remember the referendum of 17 March 1991. You do not address the substance of the draft Union Treaty, yet it was the first shovelful of earth thrown into the Soviet Union's grave. You intended to get rid of the Union Treaty decisively rather than putting the matter in abeyance. The Union Treaty had not even been signed when you were already stating that there would be no convocations of the USSR Federation Council as a Union structure. And the draft Union Treaty itself—I am referring to the final version, the version which was destructive for the country—was essentially prepared in secrecy not only from the people but also from the leadership of parliament and the state. Incidentally, this is clearly visible from the results of the investigation. The final text of the Union Treaty was not discussed by Union or republic supreme soviet committees or commissions, and the overwhelming majority of the country's leaders saw it for the first time on 16 August 1991 in the newspaper IZVESTIYA. August 18 and 19 were nonworking days, and 20 August had already been designated for the signing of the document. As far as I was concerned, for example, the need to prevent the disintegration of the Union was the main motive for participating in the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE]. We had no time to act any other way.

Properly speaking, the question of the role played by the "putsch" in the fate of the Union has already ceased to be a puzzle for many people. It is not too difficult to reach a conclusion on this matter diametrically opposed

to ours [as published]. In the strategic context two figures played the determining role in the disintegration of the Union—M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin. Noteworthy conclusions about the final nail in the Union's coffin have been drawn in this connection by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Chief Editor V. Tretyakov (who can no way be classed as one of your opponents). "Yes indeed," he writes, "Yeltsin was one of the three parties to the formal liquidation of the USSR and a participant in the coup d'etat as a result of which Mikhail Gorbachev was removed from power (of which, incidentally, he had virtually none by then—with the exception of the nuclear button, of course) more successfully and much more painlessly than in August 1991."

Even at the end of last year, however, there was still a chance of preserving a union formation, at least externally. But this chance was also lost when the Union was dealt a fatal blow with the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States in December 1991. Yet another remark by V. Tretaykov is typical in this respect: "There is no CIS, and whether it (this Commonwealth) will emerge in the future is still in question. There is some kind of amorphous structure with some kind of amorphous title reflecting the processes of the completion of the disintegration of the USSR—processes beyond its control. If I am not mistaken, Gennadiy Burbulis has admitted that the concept of the CIS was first conceived back in spring 1991."

Yet another curious statement by V. Tretyakov is worth reproducing. In his view, if M. Gorbachev had not been elected CPSU Central Committee General Secretary in June 1985 and B. Yeltsin had not been elected president of Russia in June 1991, Soviet people would still be living in the same country they always used to live in. There is an astonishing link between M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin on the one hand and the disintegration of the Union on the other.

We are approaching the end of our short journey back into the story of what happened to the Union, but it is worthwhile returning to your television interview again. You ended it with the following statement: "And I ask you, difficult as it may be, to remember 12 June last year and smile. And also to remember 19-20 August last year, when, in what appeared to be absolutely improbable conditions, it proved possible to defend peace and democracy and prevent the advent of forces which would have turned the state into a land of slaves. And the fact that it proved possible to outsmart those who are today languishing in Matrosskaya Tishina and to defend the White House thanks to Muscovites and the support of all Russians remains a guarantee that our people are single-minded—and that is where their true patriotism lies."

As for turning the state into a land of slaves, I am sure even you don't believe what you said. True, if you look at the exceptionally tough, hopeless situation now facing broad strata of the population, people who have finally been reduced to beggary, who are half-starved, humiliated, tired of bloodshed, and driven to despair, your word "slaves" could indeed be appropriate to them, to describe what fate has in store.

"We succeeded in defending the White House," you say. Against whom? You yourself know all the circumstances. There was no threat of attack on the White House, and you, of all people, were very well aware of that, having received all the necessary assurances to that effect. So why this deviousness? Obviously the only purpose of the allegations about the "storming" of the White House is to maintain the myth of your own heroism and the courage of its other main "defenders." You say proudly that "we managed to outsmart those who are now languishing in Matrosskaya Tishina." There I would perhaps agree with you, only with one slight amendment: You managed to outsmart not only "those," but others too—and most importantly the people.

The inmates of Matrosskaya Tishina were not trying to outsmart anyone, they acted openly, they made no secret of their objectives, they sought no personal gain for themselves. They were motivated by just one thing—the desire to turn aside the threat looming over the Union and prevent the onset of even more dangerous crisis phenomena, phenomena which we are now witnessing, and on a far larger scale than could have been supposed. And those who ended up in Matrosskaya Tishina are the very people who always advocated the preservation of the Union in accordance with the people's will as expressed in the 17 March referendum, and with the USSR Constitution and the 1922 Union Treaty, which nobody had then repealed. The action of 19-21 August 1991 and the formation of the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] were a cri de coeur, a desperate attempt to save the Union, that very Union over which you are now shedding crocodile tears and for which you yourself dug a grave with such admirable zeal, and then performed the funeral rites by creating the CIS.

Plenty of people are ready to censure the SCSE, but few pay any attention to the substance of the documents which it adopted, although they were made public. All these documents are permeated with concern for the preservation of the Union and the USSR Constitution; they are imbued with respect for the changes in the republics, including Russia; condemnation of totalitarianism; resolute support for democratic transformations; and the defense of our state's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Did not the SCSE documents emphasize the need to protect human rights, did they not express a positive attitude toward enterprise and all forms of ownership? They spoke with special force about the friendship of peoples and the need to put an end to the interethnic strife which has now spawned rivers of blood and human suffering. And these were no empty slogans—the SCSE offered the people an open program of priority measures and resolutely advocated the imposition of order, while emphasizing the supremacy of the Law and Right. Those who raised their voices at that time for the salvation of the Union and the Fatherland had no CIS up their sleeves. All the aforesaid indicates only one thing—that the 19-20 August action for the

Union could not have been the cause of its disintegration. It was you who exploited it as the grounds, or rather the pretext, for putting an end to the Union, the center, and all Union structures at a stroke.

In confirmation of this, it is not without interest to cite an extract from I. Silayev's evidence at his interrogation on the SCSE case in October 1991: "As for the consequences of the putsch, its failure led to a fundamentally new situation in the country... The Communist Party's activity was suspended, and the CPSU's leading organs, and especially the reactionary Russian Communist Party, stopped work. It could therefore be said to have played a positive role—it's an ill wind, as the saying goes!"

I hardly think you could express it any better than that!

History will hold responsible for the Union not those who attempted to save it, but the others, those who wrecked our mighty and united Fatherland. You too, Mr. President, will be among those called to account. I think you know that very well, and that is why you have suddenly started to express so emphatically your regrets at the Union's ceasing to exist.

Obviously you are also aware that not all the possible troubles have yet befallen our homeland. Metaphorically speaking, Russia is now without its armor plating in the form of the peoples' friendship, the former might of the state, efficient industrial production, and a vast and active scientific potential. In these circumstances Russia and the other former Soviet republics could easily become (and, please note, are already becoming) spoils for certain foreign and domestic forces. Russia is not what it was, either qualitatively or quantitatively. Instead of 300 million people [population of former USSR], there is now exactly half that figure.

Russia today is a ravaged, sick state, torn apart by conflicts and stranded in an abyss of crisis in industry, agriculture, science, culture, and a rapidly falling living standard. A very little more, and Russia will no longer be able to defend itself. In the so-called "nearby foreign countries," which people of my generation are more used to calling the distant border regions, a whole belt of states with regimes unfriendly to Russia is developing. Yet only recently many things looked entirely different. Moreover I would venture to say, with the utmost confidence, that had the measures announced by the SCSE been implemented, the country would not have had the thousands more dead, tens of thousands of wounded, and hundreds of thousands of refugees we have seen since last August. Can personal ambition and the unrestrained lust for power be worth the blood of so many, the sufferings of entire peoples?

I would like to draw your attention to another factor too. Working people have recently been classed among the Red Brownshirts, they have been called half-wits, dregs, rabble, and more in that vein. True, people are taking to the streets, demonstrating, protesting. But this is out of grief for the tragic fate of the homeland, for the dying motherland. Has it not occurred to you that certain forces are provoking you against broad strata of the population?

I know you quite well, and I do not think this letter will be in vain. But I am in my 69th year, so in any case my life is already over. Looking back, I can say that I have nothing to be ashamed of, and if anything I am indifferent, personally speaking, to the forthcoming trial: On the one hand, I am confident that an objective investigation into the SCSE case will get everything straightened out, but on the other hand I am not so naive as to expect an unbiased approach to myself and my colleagues now, knowing as I do the true value of your proclaimed rule of law and democracy. Your recent accusations against the inmates of Matrosskaya Tishina are not only a mockery of the truth, but constitute unconcealed pressure, on the eve of the trial.

One last point. During the 14 June service at St. Sergius Monastery you called for "patience, humility, and purification." The people are indeed being patient for the time being, but only for the time being. As for humility and purification, it is very important that this appeal should apply to everyone, including you, especially the bit about purification.

Please regard this communication as an open letter addressed to you.

[Signed] V. Kryuchkov,
Matrosskaya Tishina,
3 July 1992.

["Own information" report] Attorneys' Opinion

In April of this year a group of attorneys conducting the defense of former USSR People's Deputies O. Shenin, O. Baklanov, V. Boldin, V. Starodubstev, and V. Varennikov adopted an appeal to the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies petitioning for their release from custody on the grounds of unlawful arrest and institution of criminal proceedings.

However, unfortunately, in the attorneys' view, their appeal was not examined at the Congress of People's Deputies and no decision was made on it.

There are no legitimate grounds, a letter from 15 attorneys to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet says, to continue to keep the defendants in custody.

Rutskoy on Russian-Speakers, Harvest

PM1407151192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by correspondent V. Tkachuk: "At Last the Meaning of the Agrarian Reform Is Clear"]

[Text] Malicious tongues have maintained that Rutskoy came to Borisoglebsk, where he was once an instructor at the flying school, to visit his mother-in-law and his comrades-in-arms. But this of course is not at all the way

it was. At large meetings with agricultural workers and Voronezh Oblast leaders, he explained the meaning of the latest agrarian reform.

Touching on the present busy harvesting period, with soft loans being made available, prices for equipment and spare parts having been reduced by almost one third (at the state's expense), and state fuel deliveries having been set up, the vice president spoke to your correspondent about the criticism of these "antimarket" measures with his customary bluntness, saying that "only morons" who wish the onset of famine could make such charges.

Of course the meetings did not deal only with agriculture. Aleksandr Vladimirovich broached, in particular, the question of the fate of the Russian-speaking population in CIS countries. "Wherever the genocide of the Russian-speaking population is patently obvious and people are attempting to wipe their feet on Russia, my method is as follows: A strip of land is plowed up, a border is established, we congratulate (the countries—V.T.) on their independence and sovereignty, and everything—gas, timber, coal, and the rest—becomes available for hard currency only. Two months later they themselves will come crawling and say that they no longer want sovereignty and will no longer disparage the Russians."

.....As for the practical results of the visit: The Israelis could build two private farms in Borisoglebsk plus meat and dairy plants. And a "Borisoglebskaya" Agrarian Corporation could be set up, in which Western businessmen will invest tens of millions of dollars, which Russia will repay with coal from Kemerovo and oil from Western Siberia.

Program Aired on Work of Security Bodies

LD1307204892

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1425 GMT on 10 July broadcasts a 30-minute program entitled "Man and Law," with the program content headed: "The Lubyanka through the eyes of the Lubyanka."

The program includes an opening address by Andrey Chernenko, head of the Public Relations Center of Russia's Ministry of Security, fragments from a film made by the Ministry's Public Relations Center about the current work of the Security Ministry, and actuality footage of a meeting held at the end of June between Ministry officials and representatives of the whole spectrum of political parties in Russia.

In his introduction to the program Andrey Chernenko stresses that all states need a security prop, and says: "We would like you, through seeing the faces of our staff members and the work we are engaged in, to realize that the various fabrications alleging that the state security bodies and the Army structures are preparing some kind of coup, and are attempting to weaken the presidential power structure and parliament, have nothing in common with reality. The main thing is that in the final analysis politicians come and go while the state remains. What kind of state remains depends to a great extent on the people with whom I work."

The program shows fragments from a film made by the Ministry's Public Relations Center entitled: "The man from the Lubyanka: an inside view". It includes footage of the Ministry's Investigations Directorate at Lefortovo, with exterior and interior views of the building. Mikhail Yevlashin, a staff member of the Russian Ministry of Security, explains that "the Investigation Directorate employs just a few dozen people, 40 times fewer than the analogous structure in the Interior Ministry, and 10 times fewer than in the procuracy body under whose strict control they work." He says that the investigators are engaged in combating the evils of espionage, corruption, drug trafficking, and terrorism.

Screen captions introducing the actuality footage on the meeting between Security Ministry officials and representatives of Russia's political parties state: "At the end of June there was a meeting at Russia's Ministry of Security with leaders of Russian political parties of all orientations at their request. Deputy Minister General Andrey Byko and the chiefs of the Ministry's leading directorates took part in the meeting."

The party representatives' questions expressed concern that personal dossiers were being kept on them, and that the activities of their parties were being kept under surveillance. In reply an unidentified official states the following:

"I should like to say straight away that none of those present figure in my dossiers. As individuals you interest me only from the viewpoint of the political processes taking place in our country and as a citizen myself. From the viewpoint of your personal characteristics—I emphasize that you do not interest me. There are no dossiers or newspaper cutting on any of you, and I am not intending to institute any. It is not my prerogative to do so.

"Yes, I do study the programs of your parties, but to my mind this is quite a normal and natural process. I do not acquire these programs by the use of agents, because it is enough that you make everything public. Your statements, news conferences, and publications are the basis for studying the political palette of society, because only by studying as a whole the entire spectrum of political interests in the country am I able to say in what direction the political situation is moving."

Archives Scrutiny, Declassification Detailed

PM1407144592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Rudolf Germanovich Pikhoya, chairman of the Russian Federation Government Archives Committee, by Svetlana Shevchenko under "Archives" rubric; place and date not given: "Demons From Pandora's Box"]

[Text] As is known, the former CPSU Central Committee's archive is being declassified. It has been renamed the Center for Storing Contemporary Documentation, and those papers from which the special commission has lifted the veto are becoming public property. Who are the commission's members? How do they determine what can and cannot be brought out into the light of day from Pandora's box? Talking about this is Rudolf Germanovich Pikhoya—chairman of the Russian Federation Government Archives Committee.

[Shevchenko] Rudolf Germanovich, who, apart from you, is a member of the commission?

[Pikhoya] Press Minister Mikhail Poltoranin, Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Yevgeniy Abramov, Deputy Security Minister Vasiliy Frolov, Gennadiy Shipitko, leader of the government press center, my deputy, Vladimir Kozlov, and leaders of various departments. That is, a competent group of people who can determine professionally whether a document constitutes a state secret or not. But the commission's scope includes all CPSU and KGB archives as well as the secret collections in local and federal archives on Russian territory, although currently attention is naturally being focused on the archives in Staraya Ploshchad.

[Shevchenko] What do they comprise?

[Pikhoya] The Center for Storing Contemporary Documentation came into being from a great number of archives located here, specifically: the CPSU Central Committee General Department collection, the archives of the single party membership card and the Party Control Committee, and a huge quantity of documents located in various Central Committee departments. In all there are around 300 million items for storage.

[Shevchenko] What happens—do all the commission's members read through all the documents prior to a session?

[Pikhoya] That is impossible. One of the commission's members reads through them. As a rule, 95 percent of the papers passes unquestioned. But the others require discussions, which are sometimes stormy. That is when other members of the commission get involved. If, for example, it is a question of a human rights violation, the document is examined by the deputy justice minister.

[Shevchenko] What is the total volume of secret documentation?

[Pikhoya] A very important decision on declassifying a huge number of Russian archives will be adopted at one of the commission's next sessions—we are talking about hundreds if not thousands of collections. As of last year the central Moscow archives contained 27 million files, 4.5 million of which were secret. We are talking about very important historical documents relating to the 19th and 20th centuries. The party organs' record keeping was almost entirely secret, therefore we are first of all examining them in order to understand how the party fulfilled state functions. In removing the classification we are mainly proceeding from the premise that a 30-year secrecy-preservation period exists.

[Shevchenko] But do the "top secret" Central Committee archives that are now being published provide totally fresh evidence about recent years?

[Pikhoya] They include documents which are classified but not in essence secret. What could be secret about, for example, questions of pension provision for Politburo members and their wives, children, and grandchildren?

[Shevchenko] What criteria are you using in deciding to publish secrets of one sort or another?

[Pikhoya] These: Our state's security interests must not be affected; harm must not be caused to an individual's interests or the country's economic interests.

[Shevchenko] That is, to some extent you are feeling your way forward? After all, do we not have laws on the utilization of archive collections and on state secrets?

[Pikhoya] It so happens that we are feeling our way. But the commission's composition ensures the necessary level of competence. Since the legislative authority has not defined the evaluation criteria for us, we—the executive authority—are working them out for ourselves. Society's development is proceeding in such a way that we cannot restrain the flow of information, otherwise we will be violating the rights of journalists, academics, and everyone who needs these documents. We already have our own methodology and approaches to declassification. We have passed on our own experience to the Archives Committee Collegium so that a decision can be adopted on the procedure for access to archive materials which will also be utilized at local level. We also bore in mind the findings of the Supreme Soviet commission for the acceptance and transfer of CPSU and KGB documents into state custody.

[Shevchenko] What is the fate of the president's archive?

[Pikhoya] It was created by Gorbachev. It comprises CPSU Central Committee Politburo decisions and documents on questions of security, economics, and so on. Very important information of a historical nature is concentrated in it. This archive's future has been determined by President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. He has instructed a group of specialists headed by Dmitriy Volkogonov, the president's adviser on defense questions, to study these collections. The first section comprises, as a rule, materials that have appeared relatively recently, in the last few decades. They are undoubtedly essential to the head of state's work. The second—historical—section covers the period from the twenties to the sixties, and will be returned to the archives from which it was originally taken.

[Shevchenko] What happens to the documents after they have been declassified?

[Pikhoya] After technical treatment they all go to the recently formed reading room in Staraya Ploshchad. Journalists, academics, politicians, and researchers have equal rights of entry to it.

[Shevchenko] But surely any journalist's natural desire is to be the first to get hold of information.

[Pikhoya] It is very dangerous to give exclusive rights and opportunities. Whoever manages to get into the reading room first is the one who will get hold of it.

[Shevchenko] In that case what methods are being used to obtain the "juicy" documents which you haven't even set eyes on yet?

[Pikhoya] At this point I would like to make an important announcement. At the present time there is a fairly considerable leakage of secrets to the West. And occasionally items are published which, under the guise of democratization and glasnost, obviously damage our Fatherland and the foreign policy interests of the Russian Federation. For example, a series of articles has appeared which gives an arbitrary assessment of the actions of West European statesmen: Specific facts and events are unearthed and interpreted in a particular way—and the compromising material is ready. The following practice exists, for example: Foreign Ministry officials record ambassadors' conversations and inform their ministry about this, and in the past the CPSU Central Committee as well. Who made these records and for what reasons they were used is a separate question. An official's desire to look good in relation to other officials like him, but higher in rank, often made him write things that may have been untrue. Imagine a diplomat, for example, who is agonizing over the task of clarifying reactions to the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress. He invented the reactions, but wrote real surnames in his account for the sake of verisimilitude. Now these records have surfaced. Here is an example. Anatoliy Smirnov, administrative chief of a department in the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, publishes material abroad that could cause extremely serious damage to our relations with Finland. He recounts people's conversations at international meetings, interpreting them in an extremely negative way. Moreover, he claims to have obtained this material from top secret CPSU Central Committee archives, having made copies of them at an earlier date.

Who is he, this Mr. Smirnov? He was in charge of the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department. He is a party functionary who has worked in this capacity since 1975. When we entered the building on Staraya Ploshchad on 23 August 1991 in order to take away Central Committee documents and begin assembling them by department, my colleagues had to deal specifically with Anatoliy Smirnov, who handed over these documents. Clearly, he had been storing them away for a rainy day in order to use them at a later date. There are many people who used to work in Central Committee and KGB structures who handled secret documents, and now, with photocopies at their disposal, they are starting to toss the information to the press, often deliberately sorting it in order to discredit the democratic government by undermining the prestige of the Russian state.

When Yeltsin and Bush held serious talks and an atmosphere of trust emerged in Russian-U.S. relations, all of a sudden an article about Edward Kennedy containing a reference to former KGB funds was published in IZVESTIYA; nobody ever authorized its publication, the source of the text was unclear. The question arises: Who needs to destroy the mutual trust that emerged at the Russian-U.S. talks? Where does this stream of information come from?

[Shevchenko] Is there some sort of barrier that can staunch the flow?

[Pikhoya] Only the law can stop it.

[Shevchenko] I realize that I am breaking your rule of not giving out information before its appearance in the reading room. But tell me, which documents from the commission's latest session shook you most as a human being?

[Pikhoya] At the latest session we examined the most important documents enabling us to judge the mechanism of repression during the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. These documents are simply terrifying—they contain demands from party and NKVD leaders that the limits on the number of shootings be raised. Limits on the number of shootings! My God!...

[Shevchenko] The monstrous cruelty, the black holes of our history. But after all, in order to understand all this you will have to spend several years "plowing your way through" the archives. What is currently holding your work back?

[Pikhoya] Inadequate funding is very seriously impeding our work. I realize that this is a problem not just for archivists, but nonetheless it is very ticklish. The archives only receive their staffers' salaries. All other categories of expenditure are not financed. But the price of maintaining fire-safety procedures, for example, has rocketed. It is absolutely essential at the Central State Film and Photographic Documentary Archive located in Krasnogorsk. This material is highly explosive—an enormous number of documents are combustible. If they explode, Moscow will suffer. But firemen's maintenance expenses have increased by a factor of 20—I realize we cannot do without this—and can an archive exist at all given the current conditions?

[Shevchenko] Rudolf Germanovich, what is a "special file?"

[Pikhoya] There is one in every Russian archive—it is an item of party paperwork. Let me explain: Our task is not to declassify every document—that would be crazy. Our basic work consists of preparing the methodological bases for declassifying any document.

Agricultural Issues

Rutskoy To Head Agrarian 'Supermonster'

PM1507091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jul 92 Morning Edition pp 1,2

[Report by Valeriy Gavrichkin and Valeriy Konovalov: "Center for Agrarian Reform Formed. Will It Be a New State Agro-Industrial Committee?"]

[Text] On 27 June Boris Yeltsin signed another decree—"On Organizational Measures To Carry Out Land and Agro-Industrial Reform in the Russian Federation." Despite its rather prosaic title, the document and the statute approved by it on the Federal Center for Land and Agro-Industrial Reform mark a major change in the agrarian situation and the birth of a supermonster; in comparison, the unforgettable State Agro-Industrial Committee is a kid in short pants.

To make things clear from the start, the center is a state body, subordinate to the vice president and created on A. Rutskoy's initiative. It took a great deal of effort to bring it into the world, because pretty persuasive opposition appeared immediately. We have a Xerox copy of one version of the draft decree with the signatures and opinions of a good number of government members. While not objecting to the creation of the center as a nongovernment, commercial structure, most of them expressed serious doubts about its status as a state body and insisted on a discussion of the matter without fail. To all appearances, the government members' opinion was simply ignored and not even brought to the president's attention.

But be that as it may, the decree was signed, and it seems that the center will become a reality. Without doubt it will be the only creation of its kind in world practice. Funded by the state budget, entitled to handle state resources, foreign investments, and state-guaranteed credits, and possessing certain power and administrative functions on behalf of the state, it will at the same time create commercial structures and collaborate with them, forming a unified system. You do not need a great deal of imagination to see what options are possible and even inevitable in this setup.

The lightning conductor to deflect the inevitable suspicion is the Council, a "public collegial organ" whose function is to determine the Center's policy and prioritize its programs. But you need only glance at the list of Council members, drawn from all walks of life, to assess its potential and ability to resolve anything. It is hard to believe that, for example, Lapshin, one of the leaders of the deputies' agrarian lobby, and the writer Chernichenko would ever come to any fundamental agreement. Indeed, anyone familiar with the activities of various public councils will appreciate that the Center will actually be controlled not by any council, but by the vice president, the Center director, his deputies, and the rest of the large army that is allowed to share the bounty.

Immediately you get an entire new agrarian department structure: Rutskoy at the top; under him, the Center with very extensive powers; then, lower down, its foundations, regional centers, associations-cum-corporations.... The present Agriculture Ministry would appear to be redundant in this scheme. Logically enough, one government member (we could not decipher the signature) wrote: "So the Agriculture Ministry will have to be abolished."

What a drag, you might think, replacing one agrarian department with another, abolishing a ministry, or attaching it to something else, placing it in someone else's charge. We have done it many times before, in the most inconceivable combinations. But this is a special situation. Since we are talking about the present Agriculture Ministry and Minister V. Khlystun. I do not know whether it is a bad thing or a good thing, but just recently there has been movement in our agrarian department under the present minister toward the kind of standards that are common in the civilized world. Maybe as yet in the form of declarations and emerging trends, but this has been enough to produce a favorable response abroad and a desire for contacts and frantic resistance in our agrarian managerial circles.

The vice president's new agrarian structure is further reinforced as a counterweight to this line by the introduction of the post of vice premier for agriculture. One of the oblast administration chiefs, a well-known member of the nomenklatura with conservative views, is earmarked for this post. So the Agriculture Ministry's current line should be well and truly blocked. Essentially, what it all means is a complete change of power and an agrarian policy volte-face.

It is not a matter of Rutskoy's subjective intentions and his various ideas, many of which are certainly attractive and promising. The point is that what is actually being created is a monopoly managerial organ entirely at the beck and call of the commercial structures subordinate to it, which have no connection with peasant interests. This situation certainly did not occur by accident, as suggested by another example—the "Field to Store" program of the Russian Agricultural Processing Corporation, formed with Rutskoy's direct involvement. The program envisages the construction and handover of 91,500 farms for private ownership and all the processing and service structures. The cost is massive: 403.8 billion rubles [R] at 1991 prices and $903 million. Government credit guarantees have been requested for the project, together with preferential credits, the right to license products and restrict quantities, tax concessions, no obligation to sell currency earnings to the state, permission to sell military equipment worth approximately R5 billion abroad per year.

As we can see, the kind of conditions that are beyond an ordinary businessman's wildest dreams. But to hell with the conditions. What guarantees are there that the invested funds will reach the peasant? Translate the cost of the plan into current prices and it is clear that two or

even three generations of the farming family will be paying for the farm. And the processing enterprises will be bought up for nothing.

But there is more to it than that. The program is already pushing R4 trillion. But did you ever hear of a construction worker keeping to the estimated cost when he is working for some remote figure, when he is not accountable and has no obligation to anyone. Indeed, there is no intention to economize. The program will take 25-30 years to implement; it will cost an enormous amount of money. And it is for not many more than 90,000 farms. What can the remaining farmers expect? Nothing! The work cycle is completed by the fourth generation of rural inhabitants, separated from the land—the last, the sociologists assure us, to retain the peasantry's skills. Once it is gone we will have to revive the peasant-owner, just as the bison was once returned to the Belovezhskaya Forest.

Don't play the benefactor. Give the peasant land to own and credit. Let the corporations-cum-associations be dependent on him, let them grow in size and build what the peasant orders them to build. He will not order anything superfluous, he will not allow money to be squandered, he will begin with what he needs for production on day one, and he will develop it as the years go by. You do not construct a ready-made farm, you develop it. That is, at least here, in Russia, today.

But that is a different ideology, incompatible with the new organizational structure. And for all the vice president's intentions and statements, the structure will prove stronger.

Army Harvest Battalions Facing Resistance

PM1307161192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Battalions Thrown into Battle for Harvest. Countryside Resisting"]

[Text] In accordance with the Russian president's decree, the Russian Government's resolution, and an order of the Ministry of Agriculture coordinated with the Defense Ministry, the Army and Navy are allocating 40 motor transport battalions to the harvest. This means 20,000 vehicles and 42,000 people, the vast majority of whom have been called up from the reserve to staff 36 battalions. The harvesting will take four months.

In addition to basic pay officers and NCOs will receive job-related expenses and reservists will be given average pay for their permanent job plus 20 rubles [R] a day expenses and R25-R40 bonus for fulfillment and overfulfillment of the transportation plan. The Defense Ministry will meet the cost of food. Trucks will be placed under personal responsibility. Gasoline and other fuels and lubricants will be provided by kolkhozes and sovkhozes from quotas specially allocated by the government for harvesting work.

The battle for the harvest has already begun in Volgograd, Ryazan, and Tambov Oblasts: Battalions of Leningrad District rocket forces and air defense forces have been sent there. Other oblasts and krays in Russia are next in line. There will be 18 in all. It is not envisaged that Russian troops will take part in harvesting work in other Commonwealth states.

When telling your correspondent about all this, generals and other officers of the staff in charge of the motor transport battalions did not look pleased. Each year the army incurs huge losses from its involvement in the agricultural campaign. In 1991, 68 battalions (34,000 vehicles) earned R56 million but spent R150 million! This time the upkeep of a single battalion excluding the cost of rail shipment will be 118,500 "wooden" rubles a day. One vehicle will cost R1,200-R1,500 depending on the make.

Military hardware is being used extremely inefficiently on the kolkhoz and sovkhoz fields. Farms use it only during days of prolonged rain when the heavy, large-capacity KamAZ trucks with trailers get bogged down in the mud and the only ones that can work are the army's GAZ-66 and ZIL trucks even though they are considerably inferior to the other vehicles in terms of spaciousness and carrying capacity.

There is a shortage of drivers: There are three trucks to every one servicemen. Discipline among the reservists, as usual, is lax and they have virtually no interest in achieving high efficiency. You cannot improve efficiency by persuasion alone.

This year, according to military experts, there are great difficulties in store, too. The military must conclude contracts with farms for use of military hardware, but many kolkhozes and sovkhozes are declining these services—on the grounds that they are not worth it and simply not necessary. Only 25 percent of contracts have been concluded to date. It is already well known that the Army is "not expected" in Saratov and Kursk Oblasts and other regions of Russia, especially in Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays. Strike committees are being formed: They will campaign against the use of the military in the harvest.

The motor transport battalion leadership staff has received reports that Volgograd is requesting only two battalions instead of four. Bashkiria is turning down the military's services, claiming that it will transport the crop for itself. Orel Oblast has sent a telegram saying that it cannot accept the soldiers either. Or rather it would like to but its kolkhozes and sovkhozes cannot afford them. Moreover, this is only the beginning.

There are many reasons for these refusals. There is the increased worry about where to deploy, feed, and cope with this great influx of people into the villages and settlements. There is the sharp increase in harvest costs and the concomitant increase in the cost of grain. But that, of course, is not the end of the story.

The whole secret is that the military, in strict accordance with the tasks set them, are shipping grain and other agricultural produce to the state elevators and to the country's granaries, but many farms do not want to hand over their produce to the state, they want to keep it in their own granaries until winter—until the next sharp price rise.

But for the military the problem is aggravated by the fact that, whereas farms are turning down their services, the leaders of oblasts and krays are persistently demanding battalions for themselves, they want to use them as they see fit, and are trying to "extract" extra financial and material resources from the central organs to pay for the military, and are trying to resolve their own regional problems.

For example, Yu. Novikov, head of the Irkutsk Oblast administration, has stated that the military draft will only be carried out only if three motor transport battalions are left to work in Irkutsk. V. Saganov, chairman of the Buryat Council of Ministers, has asked the Russian Defense Ministry not to draft Buryat conscripts for work in other regions but to leave one battalion to clear up the aftermath of the natural disaster which befell the republic in May.

Incidentally, so far the military have not received the Finance Ministry's promised credit of R140 million to pay for the initial stage of the motor transport battalions' deployment. The Russian Agriculture Ministry, which has been given charge of the men and machines, has not decided which regions the 14 battalions (12,000 trucks) are to be sent to. The heads of administrations in the Maritime and Khabarovsk Krays and Sakhalin, Chelyabinsk, Ulyanovsk, and Lipetsk Oblasts are "bombarding" the military with requests for trucks for harvesting work.

All this suggests that it is going to be a hot summer for the military in the motherland's fields. They are ready for duty, as usual. But their discipline will be paid for by those who can still afford to purchase the grain.

Military Issues

Defense Ministry Reports AN-12 Plane Crash

LD1407162792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS—Twenty-nine out of 34 passengers of a AN-12 airplane bound to Rostov were killed after the plane crashed during the take-off at the Nakhichevan Airport at 16:09 on Tuesday [14 July], the Russian Defence Ministry Press Centre said.

The plane carried the families of soldiers serving in the Nakhichevan garrison.

A special commission headed by Russian Air Force Commander Petr Deynekin has left for Nakhichevan to investigate the accident.

The Russian Defence Ministry and Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed condolences to the relatives of the victims.

14th Army Officers Send Open Letter to Yeltsin

LD1407213692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Officers of the 14th Russian Army stationed in Moldova have sent an open letter to President Yeltsin. They request that the president not hurry in implementing the decision on the withdrawal of the Army to Russia. The letter states that the withdrawal of the Army will play into the hands of Moldova, open up the path for the seizure of the Dniester Republic, and lead to more casualties.

In the Dniester Republic, the letter notes, signatures are being collected under an appeal to Yeltsin containing a request not to withdraw units of the 14th Army. More than 100,000 signatures have been collected.

Media Issues

Newspaper Charged With Illegal Registration

LD1407130792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1136 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—The 'IZVESTIYA' is charged with illegal registration.

Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Soviet Nikolay Ryabov submitting to the RF Supreme Soviet presidium session the RF Supreme Soviet resolution on the newspaper 'IZVESTIYA' of the USSR Soviets of People's Deputies' stated on July 13: The decision to stop publishing the newspaper 'IZVESTIYA' of the USSR Soviets of People's deputies' on August 23 1991 was illegal as well as setting up a new newspaper IZVESTIYA by the collective of journalists, which was carried out with grave violations of the USSR law on press and mass media. Thus the draft resolution charges RF president with the task to provide publishing the newspaper IZVESTIYA of the USSR Soviets of People's Deputies (the representative organs of the RF power) on the basis of the publishing house IZVESTIYA.

RF Press and Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin called this decision fraught with danger and stated there are no violations in the activity of the concern IZVESTIYA. In Poltoranin's opinion the aim of the resolution is to drive 'the IZVESTIYA' out of the premises they have occupied for 75 years.

Group Appeals to Yeltsin on Free Speech

LD1407161992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] A group of leaders of the mass information media has adopted an appeal to the Russian president. It says:

We are forced to appeal due to the unprecedented campaign to strangle freedom of speech, which is about to come to a sad end. Judging by the drafts of proposed resolutions, the question on mass information media scheduled to be debated by the Russian Supreme Soviet on 16 July will leave the press, television, and radio in tight reins unknown to journalists, even during the days of the CPSU's absolute power. The intention to set up monitoring councils for state television companies is simply an attempt to create a new agitation and propaganda section, empowered to impose all-embracing censorship. The proposal to regulate the coverage of activity of the higher power and management bodies simply means a ban on publicly criticizing their activities and to express free opinion on the work of the parliament and the government.

Having at its disposal several publications, the Supreme Soviet, judging by the open comment of its chairman, is not satisfied with the scale of its influence on the press, and intends to spread this influence on all mass information media. Such expansion is taking place in particular with regard to IZVESTIYA. The active attempts by the parliamentary leaders to transform this independent publication known around the world into a pocket newspaper may have destructive consequences not only for IZVESTIYA, but for the press as a whole. By denying the democratic press its free voice and by trying to control television and radio broadcasts, parliament is acting against the law on press, and the Russian declaration on human and citizen's rights and freedoms.

We remember your—this is an appeal to the president—declaration at the closing session of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. Restrictions on freedom of speech and the press are unacceptable. From the same high podium you also said the following words: Russia has lost too much because mass information media are tame [karmannye]; as president I will do everything within my powers in order to prevent the return to those times. This return is about to begin. The aim of this appeal is to prevent this return with your help. We are not talking only about freedom of speech and freedom of the press, but about solid and rigorous guarantees of our future democratic development, states the document.

The appeal is signed by Avraamov, editor in chief of the magazine ZHURNALIST; Bolin, editor in chief of the newspaper MEGAPOLIS EKSPRESS; Golembiovskiy, editor in chief of the newspaper IZVESTIYA; Gusev, editor in chief of the newspaper MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS; Drozdov, editor in chief of the newspaper ROSSIYA; Ilin, editor in chief of the weekly GOLOS; Kurikov, deputy director of the radio station Radio Rossii; Kucher, editor in chief of the newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI; Loshak, first deputy editor in chief of the newspaper MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI; Kovalyay, first deputy director general of the radio station Ostankino and director of the radio station Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian; Poptsov, chairman of the Russian State Television and Radio Company; Potapov, editor in chief of the newspaper [words indistinct]; Togalayev, chairman of the Confederation of Journalists and Journalists Unions; Tretyakov, editor in chief of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA; Yuferova, first deputy editor in chief of the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA; and Yakovlev, chairman of the Russian State Ostankino Television and Radio Company.

Newspaper Editor's Fears on Press Crackdown

LD1407170492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer Mitkova] Two public journalism organizations—the Committee for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and the Fund for the Protection of Glasnost—made a statement on 14 July expressing their alarm raised by attempts, I quote, to establish firm parliamentary control over the press and television.

Yesterday's session of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet has given cause for the appeal. The issue of the status of IZVESTIYA was raised there. Authors of the document I have mentioned regard it as a political game. Our correspondent has just returned from the IZVESTIYA editorial office.

[Correspondent Cherkasov] The status of IZVESTIYA can only be changed by its founder and by the court. This was the topic of today's session of the newspaper personnel, which started its work several hours ago. As is known, the IZVESTIYA newspaper, an organ of USSR people's deputies, ceased to exist on 23 August last year because journalists of this publication, acting as its founders, broke away from the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

However, a draft decision of the Russian Parliament was received yesterday morning by Igor Golembiovskiy, the newspaper's editor in chief. The decision described the activities of IZVESTIYA employees as illegal. Regarding itself as the legal successor of the Supreme Soviet of the former Union, the Russian Parliament decreed that the issuing of the newspaper of the authoritative bodies of the power of the Russian Federation ought to be guaranteed. Moreover, the new organ must be published on the premises of the IZVESTIYA editorial office.

[Begin recording] [Addressing Golembiovskiy] In other words, you are not talking about closing the newspaper but about creating a new IZVESTIYA.

[Golembiovskiy] Yes, the matter is ...[pauses] or rather, we are talking about depriving the existing IZVESTIYA of the opportunity to have the circulation it has now and to occupy the place in society it has now. The IZVESTIYA incident is just the beginning of a more extensive crackdown on the freedom of the press and speech. And no one can guarantee that the same thing will not happen tomorrow to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA or TRUD. [end recording]

[Mitkova] [passage omitted, recalling similar incidents from the past] The Committee for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Journalists' Rights, and the Fund for the Protection of Glasnost appeal to the world public for moral support. The success of reforms, in which the world community is so much interested, is not possible in conditions of a crackdown on freedom of speech, the statement made by the two public journalism organizations says. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Ostankino Protests Examined

LD1507095292

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1120 GMT on 12 July carries the 30-minute "Live Dialogue" program devoted to the events of 22 June, when the Ostankino TV center was picketed by Communist supporters, and to subsequent stories in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA which claimed that five people were killed in the demonstrations. There are a variety of guests in the studio.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA correspondents Nadezhda Gariffulina and Dmitriy Gerasimov, the authors of the stories, say they based their contributions on eyewitness reports. Moscow City Soviet Deputy Lyudmila Shelkhova also quotes unidentified eyewitnesses who said corpses were loaded onto trucks and taken to the Mitino crematorium. Asked about the trustworthiness of the information, she said she could not give the names of the eyewitnesses. Video clips show violent clashes between picketers and militia near the Riga railway station in Moscow following the Ostankino demonstration.

Vladimir Zharov, Moscow's chief medical expert, says he did not have any information on bodies or missing people in connection with the events. Viktor Kasyanenko, department head in the Moscow Main Directorate of Internal Affairs, is shown telling a correspondent about some missing youngsters who were not linked to the events.

It is noted that the Moscow City Soviet set up a commission to investigate the events of 22 June and that Andrey Babushkin, the commission's secretary, called the stories in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA premature.

Aleksandr Lukin, member of the Moscow City Soviet Subcommittee on Human Rights, says the eyewitnesses' stories could not be trusted. Moscow Procurator Gennadiy Ponomarev notes that the Moscow Procuracy initiated criminal proceedings against the illegal actions by the demonstrators. He states that he believes that it was immoral for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA to publish unchecked data on the killed and missing.

In conclusion, Professor Valeriy Savitskiy condemns what he calls the slanderous publications in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

Economic Issues

Ministry Proposes Removal of Illegal Funds

OW1407194692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Interior Affairs proposes that the funds transferred via false documents be removed from the accounts of Russia's commercial banks.

The Interior Ministry, which is investigating the money stolen from the Chechen Republic, prepared a list of 2 commercial banks in Moscow and the Moscow District into which nearly 17 billion rubles was illegally transferred.

Ministry specialists said that this non-cash money will intensify inflation and worsen the situation in Russia's financial system.

Informed sources told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the Central Bank will remove these funds from the accounts of commercial banks and temporarily freeze them in a special account at the Central Bank.

Official Says Oil Production Continues To Drop

LD1307135392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 13 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow July 13 TASS—Oil production continues to drop in Russia and comprised some 200 million tonnes in the first half of this year which is 20 million tonnes less than in the same period of 1991, according to Yuriy Zlotnikov, a senior official of the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry.

The production of oil products decreased by 10 million tonnes compared to the first half of 1991. The production of petrol dropped by 2 million tonnes, that of diesel fuel—by 2.3 and of black oil—by 1.7 million tonnes, Zlotnikov, who is deputy head of a department of the ministry, told TASS on Monday [13 July].

Only 1,235 thousand tonnes of petrol were shipped to CIS and Baltic States in the first half of the year

compared to 3,150 thousand tonnes in 1991. The corresponding amount of diesel fuel dropped by 2 million tonnes and that of black oil—by three-fold. Total shipments of oil to CIS and Baltic States decreased by 18 million tonnes.

Oil exports outside the Commonwealth grew inconsiderably and totalled 31.4 million tonnes. A sharp fuel deficit in several regions of the country forced them to cut exports from 620 to 49 thousand tonnes.

Gas industry worked rather stable in the first six months of the year, according to Zlotnikov. The volume of gas production remained on the 1991 level and comprised 324.4 billion cubic metres. Gas exports dropped inconsiderably and totalled 50 billion cubic metres; however, shipments of gas to CIS states increased by ten billion and reached 54.2 billion cubic metres.

Fuel and energy industries will continue to suffer from lack of investments and equipment in the near future, according to Zlotnikov. Oil production may further drop as many customers are insolvent. Tough fuel rationing may be introduced if oil production drops below 300 million tonnes—the minimal amount required by the Russian economy, he warned.

Labor Issues

Talks With Parties, Unions on Reform Held

OW1007144592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to "IF" [INTERFAX], Thursday [9 July] the Vice Premier, Chairman of State Committee on Commodity Anatoliy Chubais, had a working meeting with the representatives of the trade unions and the parties which form "Civil Union" and the unity of the reforms' supporters "Democratic Choice". Leaders of the opposition parties were not invited to the meeting because, as it was declared, "constructive remarks are being awaited in the government".

Anatoliy Chubais and Sergey Vasilyev, one of the leaders in the group developing the programme of the reforms' deepening, presented the main trends of the future transformations and asked to submit remarks. In particular, Chubais promised that the government will take into consideration the proposal made by "Democratic Choice" on strengthening tariff barriers.

Congress of Private Trade Unions Formed

OW1407165692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The congress of Russian trade unions was formed in Moscow, uniting trade union centers of the private sector. The chairman of the "Unity" union Vladimir Komisov said that traditional unions were unable to support the newly developing middle class.

Komisov said Russian businessmen were left out in the cold in legal and economic matters before the local bureacracy.

The congress of trade unions rejected strikes as a means to reach their goal—accelerating the course of economic reform, and stated their intention to implement "civilized methods", offering the Parliament and government their own versions of legislative acts.

The participants in the congress disapprove of the monopoly held by the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions in social welfare and the possession of union property.

Labor Conference Threatens Strike 7 Sep

OW1407194992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An All-Russian labor conference established by the representatives of work collectives, striking committees, and trade unions with the participation of the parliamentary block "Russian Unity" in Moscow on July 6 demands the Russian government undertake urgent measures developed by the conference. If the demands are not fulfilled before August 17, the All-Russian labor conference threatens to begin a one day warning strike on September 7.

To prevent "lowering of the living standard of the working people and to save the collapse of national economy" the Conference, in particular, proposes to introduce state control over the prices for goods and services produced in the state sector, to establish a minimum level of wages, pensions, and benefits not less than a subsistence wage with monthly correction, to pay off the state debt in wages with a 100% compensation, to halt the introduction of the decree on bankruptcy for a year and to provide state donating for in production of the most important food products.

Supreme Soviet

Draft Resolution Calls For Return of Newspaper

PM1407144492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

["Draft Resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the Newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR," signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov; date not given; under the general heading "Encroachment on the Status of the Newspaper IZVESTIYA—One of the Most Overt Attempts at Revanche by the Nomenklatura"]

[Text] On 23 August 1991, in violation of existing legislation, the newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR (founder—the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium) ceased publication.

The new newspaper IZVESTIYA commenced publication, on the basis of the IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR state publishing house. The collective of journalists of the newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR acted as founder. The founding and registration of the newspaper IZVESTIYA involved a significant violation of the USSR Law "On the Press and Other Mass Information Media."

In view of the fact that the right of the founder—the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, whose legal successor on Russian Federation territory is the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—to publish its official press organ was violated, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To instruct the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the basis of the IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR Publishing House and the newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR, to make provision for publishing a newspaper of the Russian Federation's representative organs of power and to examine and approve an action program and the statutes of the editorial office.

2. To instruct the Russian Federation Ministry of Press and Information to help the existing newspaper IZVESTIYA to bring its founding documents and registration into line with legal requirements, and to allocate the necessary premises for normal functioning.

3. To take note that the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office has adopted the necessary measures by way of prosecutor's response to the facts uncovered relating to violations of existing legislation by the IZVESTIYA concern.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

More on Resolution

LD1407132192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1136 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov thinks: The creators of the draft resolution on economic and legal support of mass media were led by journalists. July 13 Ruslan Khasbulatov said the creators of the document were frightened by the criticism of mass media and stated further: They should have specifically pointed out what articles of the above mentioned law were to be completely abolished so far and what articles were to be made stricter. The draft law was submitted to the RF Supreme Soviet commissions and committees without its discussion by the members of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet. It is expected to be submitted for discussion of RF Supreme Soviet on Friday July 17.

New mass media draft resolution was worked out on the basis of 2 variants drafted by mass media committee of RF Supreme Soviet and a special commission of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet and was submitted to the session of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Under this draft mass media committee of RF Supreme Soviet is charged with working out laws on the organization of activity in TV and on supervising councils of state TV-Radio companies, where the mechanism of the public control over state TV should be envisaged.

The draft retains the article on mass media subsidies for 1992. According to the chairman of the council of the republic of RF Supreme Soviet Victor Zhigoulin who presented the draft, it is envisaged to refuse from the state subsidies in the sphere of mass media and completely take up the system of taxes allowances. The draft recommends to set up limitations for foreign investments in Russian mass media.

White House Discusses Resolution

LD1507090292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent Lutskoy] A discussion of the draft resolution on state policy in mass media continued today, 11 July, in Russia's White House. In journalists' opinion, the draft, which was prepared by a Supreme Soviet commission specially set up for this purpose, is an attempt to put an end to glasnost and to introduce a new form of censorship. For its part, the parliamentary committee on the mass media offered an alternative draft resolution. The sides were engaged in a quite sharp discussion. The head of the Russian parliament's Soviet of the Republics Nikolay Ryabov, who chaired the meeting, sought to achieve a compromise decision but failed.

[A. Yaroshinskya, member of the Collegium of the Ministry of Press and Information] The variant which was proposed today by the special commission of the Russian Supreme Soviet means, in essence, the end to the freedom of speech and to glasnost. I assess the draft unambiguously only as such.

[Lutskoy] As for the draft's authors, they have a totally opposite point of view on the matter.

[A. Plotnikov, people's deputy] If in the sphere of press the freedom of speech must be guaranteed by the maximum independence of press, the parliament should supervize television and guarantee that various forces in society to have access to television.

[M. Poltoranin, minister of press and information] It seems that battles for the mass media are under way. The battles between democracy in general which is asserting itself in Russia and those forces which are against democracy and which would like to go on controlling the mass media as they used to for many decades. The Russian Ministry of Press and Information prepared a draft and submitted it to the Russian Supreme Soviet. Now it is up to the Supreme Soviet to find an hour or so, so to speak, to sit down and adopt it. Instead of just doing this and eliminating the license that exists in many mass media bodies, they invent for themselves a lengthy, exhausting and unnecessary work and choose the wrong way; I mean the work of the commission.

Draft Reviewed

PM1507101192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium Examines Supreme Soviet Draft Resolution on IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] The 13 July session of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium examined the draft Supreme Soviet resolution on IZVESTIYA.

The document proceeds on the basis that, since the Russian Supreme Soviet is the legal successor to the USSR Supreme Soviet, it should have the right to publish IZVESTIYA. In the opinion of the authors of the draft, the registration of this newspaper after the August putsch as a publication of the journalists' collective was done "in substantial breach of the USSR Law 'On the Press and the Other Mass Media.'"

This view was criticized at the session by IZVESTIYA Chief Editor Igor Golembiovskiy, who argued that, since Russian laws take precedence over the laws of the former USSR, references to the fact that the IZVESTIYA collective had breached Union legislation are groundless.

The members of the Presidium were in no hurry to approve the document. It has been submitted for examination by parliamentary committees and commissions, the Ministry of the Press and Information, and the IZVESTIYA labor collective. Nonetheless, it is assumed that the matter will be discussed at the Supreme Soviet Thursday [16 July] or Friday [17 July].

Issue Postponed

OW1507105892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0929 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A challenge to the independent status of the newspaper IZVESTIYA which the Presidium of Russia's Supreme Soviet planned to launch at next Friday's [16 July] session has been struck off this week's agenda today, Wednesday. That follows last night's meeting between President Yeltsin and the parliament's speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. On Tuesday Yeltsin expressed his resolute support for the paper which parliament had wished to control and for the freedom of the press on the whole.

The question of mass media in the light of decisions by the 6th Congress of People's Deputies will be discussed at the end of Thursday's parliamentary session.

Commentary on Draft Resolution

PM1307132992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Offensive on Freedom of Speech Being Prepared in Russian Parliament"]

[Text] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, could become the de facto sovereign of the Russian mass media if the drafts of the documents prepared for the forthcoming Supreme Soviet session are adopted and implemented.

The draft resolution "on state policy in the field of the mass media" which, in the opinion of a number of Supreme Soviet deputies, is distinguished by a high degree of readiness, provides for the creation of a Supervisory Council for the mass media with enormous powers in the field of cadres policy and the financing of television, radio, and newspapers.

According to the draft, the Supervisory Council will have the right "to give recommendations which are compulsory" not only to the "Ostankino" television and radio company, the Russian television and radio company, and newspapers whose founder is the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet but also those mass media which are called "state" media.

The draft does not define this term, which makes it possible to interpret it broadly. The Russian Press Ministry in the past acted as the cofounder of approximately 260 newspapers mostly in the krays and oblasts. Minister M. Poltoranin, according to many statements he made, saw his department's task in ensuring material opportunities for a free press, with complete lack of interference in the political orientation and cadres decisions of these mass media.

But the draft provides for an instruction to the Press Ministry "not to act in future as the founder of periodical publications" and "to resign as a founder of mass media it had founded in the past."

Ministry experts believe that the Supreme Soviet draft resolution includes a serious threat to freedom of speech. It emerges from the text which has been prepared that, for instance, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, whose founder is the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, comes under the term "state mass media." But the text of the draft does not rule out the "statehood" of publications like NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and KURANTY, whose founder is the Moscow City Soviet.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA enjoys critically important advantages thanks to its extremely preferential system of financing. It is not its own popularity but taxpayers' money which is its material base. This enables it in practice to be independent of readers' demands. But the execution of daily instructions and recommendations from the Supreme Soviet leadership is a determining condition for that publication's invulnerability in the tough newspaper market.

If the principles on which ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA operates extend to hundreds of periodical publications and television and radio stations founded by local organs of power or maintained with their budgets, then the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet will concentrate in its hand a colossal propaganda machine equal in size to the communist monopoly.

Under the conditions of the drastic increase in prices for paper, distribution, and printing services, the guaranteed prosperity of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA could serve as a welcome example for many mass media in a critical financial position.

The Supreme Soviet draft resolution provides for the Supervisory Council for the mass media to determine the size of subsidies for each specific publication. At this stage it operates in conjunction with the Press Ministry. But later the Supervisory Council, independently this time, will approve a specific list, introducing to it the amendments it deems expedient.

Reducing the role of a government organ to the level of preliminary development, the Supervisory Council will combine the functions of legislative and executive authorities, which is an obvious threat to the foundations of the democratic system.

But in fact the danger is even more serious, since one of the three branches of the state acquires decisive influence over the "fourth power." Its independence becomes spectral and the voice of the person or group of people who will lord it in the Supervisory Council will acquire deafening power.

It is planned to create the Supervisory Council out of "representatives of the deputies' factions, commissions of the chambers, committees of the Supreme Soviet and its organs, and representatives of various sociopolitical parties and movements." Similar councils exist in a number of democratic countries, which is confirmed by the examples of Britain's BBC or DEUTSCHE WELLE. But in those countries the parliaments do not have their own "organs." Nor do they go beyond budget policy, leaving the allocation of subsidies to the executive authorities.

The lack of influential, fully formed political factions in the Russian parliament opens up broad scope for behind the scenes intrigues during the formation of the Supervisory Council for the mass media. Public admissions by many deputies that they are being manipulated have been confirmed in the process of actual preparation of this Supreme Soviet resolution.

It is reported that by a personal ruling of speaker R.I. Khasbulatov, V.I. Bragin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet committee for the mass media, was removed from the post of commission chairman. The preparation of the documents was assigned to N.T. Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Republic.

The draft resolution prepared under the leadership of N.T. Ryabov differs sharply from the draft created by V.I. Bragin's commission. The main difference is in the positions which should ensure the Supreme Soviet leadership scope for decisive cadres changes and selective financial aid for the mass media.

It has become known that the question of the mass media was deferred to the very end of the Supreme Soviet session. In the opinion of some deputies, the calculation here is on the general irritation with the press, the desire to hurt the government, and the humanly understandable tiredness of the deputies' corps on the eve of the parliament vacation. This could result in the discussion of the drafts being fudged and voting being done very swiftly.

It is not known whether the government will appeal to the Russian Constitutional Court if the draft becomes law. But a number of publications are discussing this possibility, regarding the creation of the Supervisory Council with its proposed functions as a violation of the Constitution and the freedom of the press.

Further Commentary

PM1407191192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Valeriy Rudnev commentary: "Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium Tries To Supplant the Courts"]

[Text] To begin with, a few words about the legal tangle. It is being proposed that the Russian parliament adopt a resolution on the newspaper IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR. I stress: a newspaper of the USSR, a state which no longer exists on the contemporary map of the world. There are no USSR newspapers or journals and no USSR radio or television. Just as, finally, there are no USSR laws. Therefore, however thoroughly we try to reconstruct the events of last August, however often we refer to the norms of socialist law that have been consigned to oblivion, today we can adopt a decision only on the basis of Russian laws. In our case—the Russian Federation law "On the Mass Media." This law which operates in Russia today is the only possible point of departure in the search for the truth.

Whether Russian deputies are still keen on a law which they adopted last year is another question. Of course, time flies, especially since August 1991, but I repeat: The

Russian Federation law "On the Mass Media" is in operation, and no other has been issued at the present time.

Does IZVESTIYA's current activity contravene the Russian law? Judge for yourselves. I quote from the law: "The editorial board of a mass medium implements its activity after it has been registered." IZVESTIYA was registered at the Russian Ministry of the Press and Information 23 August 1991, and therefore operates on a legal basis.

Should IZVESTIYA be helped—I quote from the draft resolution—"to bring its founding documents and registration into line with legal requirements"? Emphatically not. We have already undergone a thorough inspection at the Ministry of the Press and Information. No criticisms were expressed then of our founding documents. Of course, the law provides that a registration certificate can be deemed invalid. But only by the courts, and not on the suspicion of parliament, but on the application of the Ministry of the Press and Information in cases strictly stipulated by the law: If we obtained our registration certificate by deceitful means, or if we have not published for more than one year. Nothing of the kind applies here: We went to the Ministry of the Press and Information openly, hiding nothing, and we publish regularly, thank God.

Can the paper's activity be terminated now? Yes. But first, once again, only by decision of the courts and if there are sufficient grounds for such a decision: a call to seize power, for example, or to change the constitutional order by force, war propaganda, or other criminal offenses. And second, we ourselves, the journalists and founders of IZVESTIYA, can terminate our activity if we are faced with conditions which make work impossible. That is what the law says. But the paper is not breaking the law, and is calling on no one to use violence. Therefore there is nothing for the courts to decide.

Perhaps we are preventing parliament or its presidium from founding a new paper, as is unambiguously stated in paragraph one of the draft resolution? Not at all. And the law gives us no such rights.

Finally, a few words about paragraph three of the draft resolution. Yes, the Russian general prosecutor's office has protested the decision to set up the IZVESTIYA concern. But, first, this is in no way connected with the foundation of the IZVESTIYA newspaper. And the shadow of the prosecutor's office which has arisen over the decision to set up the concern should not be artificially cast over the newspaper. And second, the facts revealed by the prosecutor have not yet been certified according to legal procedure. So that the prosecutor's reaction can be noted, but parliamentary policy cannot be based on it.

Last. The method chosen by parliament to solve a problem containing a legal conflict cannot help but cause surprise. It seems that we are agreed on the need to build a rule-of-law state and on the separation of powers which that entails. And if the first estate (parliament) has a legal claim against the "fourth" (in this case we are talking about our newspaper), it would appear that it is logical that the third estate (that is, the courts) should establish the truth. But it would appear that parliament intends to deliver a verdict itself, thereby supplanting the courts. And demonstrating that it is a matter of a political decision.

10 Jul Proceedings Discuss Cossacks, Taxation

LD1307140192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1955 GMT on 10 July carries the 24-minute "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session" program, on proceedings at the 10 July session.

The program opens with the announcer stating that the draft decree on the rehabilitation of the Cossacks was presented by (Anatoliy Vasilyevich Anikeyev), chairman of the Committee on Repressed Peoples. He outlines the content of this draft decree. Questions from the floor follow, primarily concerning the territorial implications of this draft decree. Concern is voiced that further consultation with the government is needed before this draft decree can be adopted. (Anikeyev) explains that this draft decree was prepared by the Supreme Soviet and government representatives. Khasbulatov, who is in the chair, proposes that this be adopted as a basis. It is adopted with 136 in favor, 21 against, and 16 abstentions.

At 2008 GMT a deputy then takes the stand to talk about some issues relating to taxation policy. The reasons behind the ineffective nature of existing tax policy are analyzed. The problem is noncollection of taxes. He presents a decree containing two articles aimed at setting up the necessary mechanisms to overcome these problems and maximize the efficacy of tax legislation. This is adopted with 170 for, 0 against, and 2 abstentions.

The same deputy then presents a second resolution on the collection of taxes for the Russian Federation budget. There are amendments, and he advocates accepting these as well.

Khasbulatov asks whether these amendments are acceptable and this resolution can be accepted as a basis along with the amendments. This is approved and it is adopted with 169 for, 0 against, and 2 abstentions.

At 2011 GMT Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov takes the stand to talk about the parliamentary group of which he is a member. The work of the group is geared toward enhancing Russia's prestige within international parliamentary organizations. They now wish to consider whether or not to enter the European Community's parliamentary organization. He briefly explains the links this group has with the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Defense. He emphasizes the importance of the parliamentary contacts built up as a result of the travels of this parliamentary group.

At 2018 GMT the commentator concludes the broadcast by saying that at the suggestion of the depties, discussion of this issue was postponed until the next session.

Proceedings on Chernobyl, Economic Reform

LD1507093892

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1950 GMT on 14 July, in the "At the Russian Supreme Soviet Session" program, carries a 29-minute recording of proceedings of the Russian Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 14 July.

The session begins with Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov giving the floor to Georgiy Semenovich Zhukov, who reports on the draft of the law on the status of the closed administrative and territorial entities in its second reading. Zhukov briefly talks about improvements made to the draft as a results of further work and discussions carried out and asks the deputies to vote for passing it in its second reading. The law is passed by the absolute majority of votes.

At 1957 GMT, Abdulatipov, who is now in the chair, gives the floor to chairman of the subcommittee of the Committee for the Issues of Ecology and the Rational Use of Natural Resources, Fedor Grigoryevich Gasparyan, who is talking about the hardships experienced by the inhabitants of Bryansk Oblast, the Russian territory struck by the Chernobyl catastrophe. He complains that the provisions of the law on the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe adopted by the Russian Government are not being observed in the oblast and proposes that the government reports on the progress of the rehabilitation program for the inhabitants of the disaster areas soon after the parliamentary summer vacations end.

At 2011 GMT Deputy Stepankov, chief procurator of Russia, says that the Russian Procuracy has carried out sn investigation in Bryansk Oblast as well as all the other regions in Russia affected by the Chernobyl disaster on how the law was being implemented. He admitted that this law, on the whole, was not put into effect, especially in the sphere of financing and utilization of the allocated funds. He suggests that parliament should adopt a decision instructing the government to give the full account of the work carried out so far by September. The proposal is put to a vote and is passed by an absolute majority of votes.

Abdulatipov calls Deputy Mikhail Alekseyevich Mityukov, chairman of the committee on legislation, to report on the draft decision on the regulation of the civil law for the period of economic reform. He proposes that the principles of the civil law adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet on 31 May, 1991 should be used for the meantime until the new Civil code of the Russian Federation is adopted, with several exeptions, and that the USSR Civil Code of 11 June, 1964 should also be used until then, exept in the cases where it would contravene the legislative acts adopted by the Russian Federation after 12 June, 1990 and other acts currently in use on its territory. The decision is put to vote as a whole and passed by an absolute majority of votes.

At 2020 GMT Deputy Nesterov of the subcommittee on the radioactive safety of the Committee on the Questions of Ecology says his committee is concerned about the safety of the mobile nuclear rocket launchers, especially the RS-12 and RS-22 systems which, in the light of the massive reductions of the strategic nuclear arms recently announced by Russia and the United States, will probably play a more important role in the future. On behalf of his committee he proposes that chief commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Shaposhnikov, should give the full report on the technical safety of these mobile rocket systems for the future discussion of this issue by the parliament.

At 2252 GMT the announcer says that among other items there was a report on the work of the interparliamentary group. The report on the results of the parliamentary investigation of the activities of the Ministry of Security was presented at the closed session of the parliament. Tomorrow the session will continue its work.

New Income Tax Law Amendments Adopted

PM1407120792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "New Russian Taxes To Help the Poor and Revive the Economy"]

[Text] On 10 July the Russian Supreme Soviet ended its discussion of the law "On Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Tax System." The law was adopted, with the exception of those sections relating to value-added tax [VAT] and the taxation of import-export operations. It is planned to continue examining the question of lowering the VAT rate until Tuesday [14 July] with the participation of Ye. Gaydar.

Under the previous legislation, the minimum [income] tax rate (12 percent) was levied on individuals with annual incomes of up to 42,000 rubles [R]. The top tax rate on an annual income of more than R420,000 was 60 percent. Experts are noting several fundamental reasons prompting parliament to review the tax system. First and foremost, the significant level of inflation has brought even less well-off citizens into the bracket of citizens affected by progressive taxation. Average monthly salaries in Russia are now R3,000, and it transpires that even ordinary workers are automatically classed as wealthy.

The taxes brought in under the old price levels have provided no incentive for entrepreneurial activity and have scared off private Western capital from investing in the Russian economy. Indeed, foreign entrepreneurs working in Russia have repeatedly expressed their dissatisfaction with the existing taxation procedure, which has been compounded still further for them by the constantly falling ruble, resulting in even low-paid

Western employees being classed as very well-off. Western entrepreneurs' appeals to the Supreme Soviet, the Ministry of Finance, and the Committee for the Budget and Taxes have clearly played a part in the revision of the tax system.

Under the new law the minimum tax band—12 percent—will extend to an annual income of R200,000. Tax of R24,000 and 20 percent of the amount in excess of R201,000 will be levied on incomes up to R400,000. Incomes of up to R600,000 will be liable to tax of R64,000 together with 30 percent of the amount in excess of R401,000. The upper limit of this band is raised to R600,000. On incomes above this level individuals will have to pay R124,000 plus 40 percent of the amount in excess of R601,000.

The shortcomings in the former taxation system were so obvious that parliament adopted the new procedure virtually without any wrangling. Yet these shortcomings, inherited from the wage-leveling traditions of the past, had been fairly apparent and had been predicted a long time ago. Is the new law free of shortcomings? In the opinion of V. Panskov, first deputy chief of Russia's Main Tax Inspectorate, the good intentions on which the law is based could be negated for the prosaic reason that the deputies ignored technical questions of the collection of tax information. The law came into force 1 July, and prior to this taxes should be levied at the old rates for the first half-year. But in both cases the rates are calculated on the basis of annual income. This procedure is liable to so complicate financial organs that accounts offices could be swamped by figures and fractions.

Will revenue fall as tax rates are lowered? In an interview with an RIA correspondent, S. Shatalov, chairman of the parliamentary subcommission on taxes, expressed this very fear, giving a figure of hundreds of billions of rubles. Obviously, it will not be possible to avoid an initial decline in tax revenue. But subsequently the most-favored arrangements for entrepreneurs cannot fail to produce the expected results. Moreover, the easing of tax rates will probably convince some of our fellow citizens that the still very widespread practice of concealing one's income from the state would not be worth it any more. Moreover, the changes in the width of the tax bands will sharply reduce the workload of financial inspectors, who will find it easier to root out those people who are still trying to evade their taxes—which, incidentally, is considered to be a very serious breach of the law in the civilized world....

Regional Affairs

Moscow City Soviet Condemns Popov Statement

MK1407125792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 4

[Statement by Moscow City Soviet Chairman N.N. Gonchar: "Moscow City Soviet Statement. Moscow City Soviet Adopted a Statement in Connection with G.Kh. Popov's Statement Published in the Press About the Termination of His Work as Mayor of Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow City Soviet takes a negative attitude to the results of G.Kh. Popov's activity in the post of mayor of Moscow and believes that he did considerable harm to the development of democracy and to the economic reforms in Russia.

Total ignorance of the constitution and laws of Russia when resolving city problems, the collapse of Moscow's management structure, which intensified the decline in municipal services, the lessons in "real democracy" by the beating up of demonstrators on Tverskaya Street 23 February 1992, dubious deals with foreign firms on the long-term leasing of buildings and pieces of land in Moscow, the discrediting of the representative power elected by the people, primarily the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet of Russia, for the purpose of eliminating them, and, as a result, the weakening of the state which has already been bled white—this is G.Kh. Popov's brief "service record" during his less than one year in the post of mayor of Moscow.

G.Kh. Popov's appeal—"It is necessary to overcome the last legacy of the totalitarian regime: the all-powerful soviets at all levels..."—leads to persecution for dissidence and launches a "hunt for those witches" who have supposedly "settled" in the soviets.

G.Kh. Popov's struggle against the soviets as not having justified themselves is groundless, because the soviets prior to 1990 served as a screen to mimic the participation of the broad people's masses in the management of the state and as an obedient tool of the nomenklatura's policy.

The decorative nature of the soviets that existed before is also indicated by the almost negligible baggage which the soviets of all levels brought with them to 1990—without experience of organizing work or adopting collective decisions in sessions, without the techniques for working with a budget or supervising executive power, without any information, methods, or analytical base or continuity in the work of the newly elected corps of deputies, without the necessary system for training specialists.

By going into the elections under the slogan "All Power to the Soviets" G.Kh. Popov and his confederates virtually used the soviets as a springboard to reach the upper floors of executive power in Moscow and for the subsequent creation of an administrative-edict system, only this time of a new "democratic pattern," in which the role of window-dressing is still defined for representative power. Conscious of this, Moscow City Soviet denied G.Kh. Popov its support at the time of his election as mayor.

The referendum being imposed on society with the active participation of G.Kh. Popov on the fundamentals of the new constitution with the executive power dominant in society is a gamble on people's ignorance of the machinery of state management and on their low

morale, not a gamble on ascertaining the most sensible system of state power. The very process of holding the referendum and any outcome of it will lead to a social explosion and the destruction of the Russian Federation's integrity.

Moscow City Soviet takes a negative attitude to the idea of strengthening executive power by weakening representative power. In the USSR the executive power already had unlimited powers, it prepared and executed the laws itself, it supervised itself, it judged itself, and, as a result of its moral and intellectual degradation, it led society to the brink of disaster.

Moscow City Soviet believes that society's way out of crisis, the creation of favorable conditions for the development of the market economy, and the ensuring of human rights are only possible after the creation of a strong system of unified state power in Russia, consisting of the legislative (representative), executive, and judicial branches, which balance each other, with the emergence of their balance, mutual restraints, and the strengthening of legality and law and order. These power structures are being formed precisely today.

It is precisely the need for strict fulfillment of the Russian Constitution and laws, occasioned by the first steps of the Congress of People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet, and the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation in creating a rule-of-law state, that has cast doubt on many aspects of G.Kh. Popov's theoretical and practical activity and forced him to tender his resignation from the post of mayor at such a difficult time for Moscow.

Moscow GUVD Chief's Dismissal Rumored

MK1407124192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by L. Chaykin under the "In Brief" rubric: "Murashev's Resignation?"]

[Text] According to information from well-informed sources, an MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] commission recently completed a check on the work of the Moscow GUVD [City Internal Affairs Administration] and deemed it unsatisfactory. The question of removing Arkadiy Murashev from the post of GUVD chief is being discussed. Moscow Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev is convinced that "Murashev's career is over." Rumors are circulating in the MVD lobbies that the candidacy of Murashev's colleague in the Union corps of deputies—Candidate of Juridical Sciences Yuriy Golik, a 40-year-old criminal law expert, former dean of Kemerovo University's Law Faculty, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Questions of Law and Order and the Fight Against Crime, and chairman of the Committee for the Coordination of the Work of Law Enforcement Organs under the USSR president—is being examined among the possible successors to Murashev. Official sources have so far refused to confirm or deny this information.

Over 90% Moscow Defense Enterprises Bankrupt

LD0907130892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] More than 90 percent of the enterprises of the Moscow defense complex are now bankrupt, ITAR-TASS reports. Although their incomes exceed their debts by many millions, they regularly fail to pay their bills. As a result, the enterprises are now moving to a shortened week, whereas some of the enterprises have closed down for one to three months. According to the Moscow trade union federation information center, a prestrike situation is arising in the defense complex of the Russian capital.

Moscow Begins Private Trade Regulation

LD0707162292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text]—The Moscow government adopted a resolution on Tuesday [7 July] on measures to regulate the work of trade, public catering, and domestic service enterprises. Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov cited numerous violations by private firms, of accords previously agreed to with city authorities, as the primary reason for the resolution. These violations can be seen in reductions in the volume of trade, cutbacks in the range of goods, and placing incompatible goods in shops and offices of commercial structures.

It is not uncommon for shops to close, often without explanation, following their privatization. The Moscow government has introduced a system of liability for these violations, which stipulates fines up to and including sale of the enterprise at auction. The contract for buying and selling state and municipal property will include regulations on the work of trade, public catering, and domestic service enterprises. Yuriy Luzhkov stressed that privatization in trade and domestic services is still a priority issue for the local Moscow government.

Moscow Drought Empties One-Third of Reservoir

MK1007141792 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 8 Jul 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Moscow Has Already Sucked Up an Entire Reservoir"]

[Text] As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS reported on 7 July that the scale of the pumping of water for the capital's drinking needs from the Istrinskoye Reservoir has assumed catastrophic proportions. In some places the shoreline at Istra has already retreated 100 meters, and it now resembles the sad landscape of the Aral Sea.

But a similar fate has also befallen other reservoirs in the Moscow water basin—Mozhayskoye, Ruzskoye, Ozerninskoye. Since the beginning of the year more than

one-third of the total volume of the four main reservoirs' 780 million cubic meters of water has been taken—270 million cubic meters. It is possible to believe without exaggeration that there is now one less reservoir (according to modest yardsticks!) in Moscow Oblast.

But extreme need makes it necessary to take water in such barbarous quantities, we were assured in Mosvodokanal's administration. There has not been a drought like the present one since 1972. Not only did Moscow not see the normal quantity of snow, but it has not even seen an amount of rain that can be called at all decent. If it were not for the pumping of clean water from the reservoirs, we would already be getting from the faucets in our apartments half water and half silt from the lower stratum of the Moskva River.

Fortunately, so the leaders of Mosvodokanal assure us, it will be possible to avoid a further discharge of water from Moscow Oblast's reservoirs. A reserve system for pumping water from the Vazuzskoye Reservoir has been brought into action. We have now been drinking water from Tver and Smolensk Oblasts for at least a couple of days.

Khasbulatov Interviewed in Bryansk on Visit

PM1407132992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jul 92 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov by unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent; in Bryansk; date, place not given: "Interview With R. Khasbulatov"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov gave an ITAR-TASS correspondent an interview before leaving Bryansk, following a three-day visit to the area that suffered radiation contamination as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

[ITAR-TASS] Ruslan Imranovich, after your tour of the villages in the strict radiation monitoring zone, you admitted during a conversation with journalists that you had formed a very grave impression from everything that you saw and heard. In your view, to what can we attribute the negative facts and phenomena of which you were told by Russian victims of Chernobyl? An adequate legislative base is, I think, now in place to wipe out the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

[Khasbulatov] In order to eradicate many impartial phenomena in Russia's Chernobyl zone we above all need to strive to rigorously and precisely implement the Law "On Social Protection for Citizens Subjected to Radiation as a Result of the Catastrophe at the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station]," which was adopted by the Russian Supreme Soviet more than a year ago. We recently adopted the second version of this law which considerably expands the privileges for the victims. Regrettably, I have encountered instances of this law's not being implemented, and it is often misinterpreted. The old ailment, whereby laws are supplanted by statutory instruments issued by various ministries and departments, is making a stealthy comeback. The upshot is that many privileges are diminished or reduced to zero. Second, it must be sadly acknowledged that, in the seventh year since the Chernobyl tragedy, there is still no unified state program being implemented by the government to eliminate the consequences of the catastrophe on Russian territory. The government's special "Chernobyl Committee," which was set up at the behest of the First Congress of People's Deputies, has proved incapable for a number of reasons. This committee should be led by someone who is anxious about this extremely crucial matter, someone who is able to coordinate the work by hundreds of different organizations around the country. Regrettably, we can see no signs of such purposeful work. Certainly, to be frank, the government is not displaying the requisite persistence and is trying to avoid resolving acute issues. Matters are complicated still further by the fact that the economic situation in the country has drastically deteriorated, which is creating additional serious difficulties with implementing the provisions of the "Chernobyl law." Despite all the difficulties you must realize that it is a matter of honor, a matter of conscience, a matter for our state to create normal living conditions for people, relieve them of the effects of radiation, and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe on Russian territory. We must think about the future and not forget that Bryansk Oblast is part of the center from which our state originated. Our duty to people is also our duty to history.

This trip and my countless meetings with people and representatives of the local authorities showed that supervision over the activity of the government and the implementation of the laws that we have adopted must be stepped up.

[ITAR-TASS] Over the last few years many Russian leaders of various ranks have visited the contaminated zone and people have pinned their hopes of an improvement in their disastrous position on every leader's visit. However, time has passed and there have been no significant changes. What conditions do you think are needed to make these changes possible and to achieve a breakthrough in the Chernobyl situation?

[Khasbulatov] I am sure that it is possible. I have already said that parliamentary supervision of the government's activity is being stepped up. I think that tightening supervision over the way in which executive organs of power comply with the "Chernobyl" legislative acts may ensure this breakthrough. On our return to Moscow we will study all the proposals that we have received during this working trip with specialists and deputies and will draw up a plan to implement them. It will form the basis of the ordinance that I intend to issue.

[ITAR-TASS] During your meetings with representatives of the contaminated areas you said, when discussing the position of industrial enterprises, that "the whole country might soon remember Chernobyl." Are there grounds for such a pessimistic forecast?

[Khasbulatov] At this point you can cite the actual enterprises that are operating outside the contaminated zone in Bryansk Oblast. They find themselves in virtually the same economic conditions as others, situated thousands of kilometers away. They are all suffering from the existence of harsh regulations that were ostensibly established to implement reform. But in many cases these regulations have no bearing on the formation of a market economy, instead they cause production stoppages, an increase in unemployment, a reduction in the amount of commodities on the market, and the restriction of the whole sphere of market activity. I am reminded of all this by certain conditions whereby the introduction of a new version of "War Communism" is becoming possible.

The range of negative manifestations is increasingly expanding. When we visited the Novozybkov machine building association, which is in the strict radiation monitoring zone, we heard the director objecting to the formation of a joint-stock company and asking for promotion of the collective's wish to switch to operating as a people's enterprise. The government has set about absolutizing the formation of a joint-stock company. But the market does after all presuppose diverse forms of ownership and economic activity. We are bound to take this into consideration, especially if an enterprise is operating in the extraordinary conditions around Chernobyl. The artificial, almost forcible introduction of a single, all-purpose form of privatization will alienate the workers from the very concepts of the market, private ownership, and enterprise. That is the most terrible thing that can happen in conditions of the transition to a market economy.

[ITAR-TASS] Can parliament intervene in the progress of reform at this stage in its implementation in order to remove the negative factors that you have mentioned now and which you mentioned during your meetings in the contaminated areas?

[Khasbulatov] Of course it can. We will perform that kind of intervention next week. Value-added tax must be reduced and taxes on people considerably reduced at the same time. After all, earnings of 7,000-8,000 rubles are liable to 40-percent taxation and a person will have nothing left from his earnings. Motivation for work must be increased by reducing taxation. Stabilization must be promoted by other measures: preferential provision of credit and reduction and elimination of taxation on investment capital. If we do not take this path, we are condemning enterprise collectives to poverty. Our government opponents tell us: "If you reduce taxation, you will have fewer resources for the nonproduction sphere." But I can ask the following question with equal success: "If all enterprises shut down, from whom will you collect taxes?" I think that parliament still has reliable levers for intervention although I admit that we should have intervened before.

'Old Cadre' Appointed to Local ITAR-TASS

MK1407131592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 11 Jul 92 p 3

["M.B." report: "An Old Cadre Does Not Spoil Sobchak's Furrow..."]

[Text] According to a report in the St. Petersburg newspaper SMENA, Boris Petrov, who was renowned for openly supporting the State Committee for the State of Emergency while he was leader of the Leningrad Television and Radio Company, was recently appointed director of the local branch of ITAR-TASS. Last September A. Sobchak, the city's mayor, removed B. Petrov from his television post precisely because of his proputsch stance. But times are changing. In June that same A. Sobchak personally offered the former chief of the Leningrad Television and Radio Company and, prior to that, the former head of the ideological department of Leningrad City party committee, the post of director of the sinking St. Petersburg branch of ITAR-TASS with a view to turning it into an independent agency. B. Petrov is full of grand plans for the agency's prosperity, the funds for which will be provided by founder-investors whom he has found among financial and commercial structures. As SMENA writes, the TASS employees have even rejoiced at the coming of such a chief. The old cadres are still strong.

ITAR-TASS Regional Conference Ends

LD1507082292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2025 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg July 14 TASS—ITAR-TASS correspondents ended their regional conference in St. Petersburg on Tuesday [14 July].

The conference, which was organised for correspondents working in north-western Russia and the Baltic States, focused on ways to improve the work of the news agency to promote radical economic reforms in Russia and other CIS states.

ITAR-TASS General Director Vitaliy Ignatenko told journalists at a news conference on Tuesday that similar conferences had already been held in Sochi and Tyumen. TASS is restructuring but it is not an easy process, Ignatenko admitted.

Speaking about the recent dispute involving two TASS correspondents in Bonn, Ignatenko said they had been fired as a result of redundancy facing many TASS employees. The two men broke the professional code and deserved no pity, he said. Their actions may be regarded as an attempt to earn political capital, Ignatenko added.

Ignatenko said TASS is an independent news agency and experiences no pressure from the government. He welcomed the emergence of news agencies in Russia as a good sign, saying that "the more news agencies we have, the better."

Vladivostok Arsenal's Security Assessed

OW1507020692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0555 GMT 24 Jun 92

[S. Litus video report; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] What do you think is behind this fence? What does it fence off? What does it protect? Well, I do not think this question poses a problem for any true Russian. Of course, bombs, grenades and torpedoes. Well, if someone still does not believe me I will ask the camera operator to show you a closeup. [video shows a ramshackle fence with wide gaps, a vehicle, entry control point building, various shots of munition stockpiles]

We are filing this report from a Vladivostok rayon called Egershelda. And so, behind me is the largest ammunition depot belonging to the Red Banner Pacific Fleet arsenal. There are other ways into this depot, the more official ones, the entry control point some 20 meters from here, but that is for those who have a pass. But, if you do not have one, like our camera crew, there are other rather more indigenous variations. Incidently, it was not by chance that I used the word, variations, in the plural sense, because there seem to be numerous loopholes into this ultra controlled location. Let us go in a little further, for instance to the garages, which incidentally prettily frame the megaton depository of death.

[Begin video interview with unidentified civilian] The sailors have made this entrance. They bring girls here, they come with beer and alcohol. Here, just around the corner they barbeque shashlik, drink and then wander off. Over there is a duty person, but he does not come this far. He is on duty over there, he walks around the cars but does not come any further, yet here there is smoke, there are fires, shashliks are being barbequed, but he is unable to approach. [end video interview]

[Video shows a stockpile of various sized drums, then cuts to show file footage of the Vladivostok munitions depot fire, captioned and dated 14 May, 1992] All of this would be funny, in a Russian sort of way, if it were not so sad and serious, and if our city had not, very recently, lived through the tragedy, the explosions which had not only reverberated throughout the country, but also the entire world. What if, God forbid, the Egershelda arsenal should go up?

[Begin video interview with Lieutenant Colonel Klychko, assistant to the commander of the arsenal; Major Kolos, chairman of the Maritime Kray Trade Union of Servicemen; and Captain First Rank Cherepko, deputy of the Kray Soviet]

[Klychko] The consequences would be very deplorable, and this, in principle, must not happen in this rayon.

[Litus] This was the opinion of a specialist who knows the situation firsthand. Lt Col Klychko, assistant to the commander of the arsenal, who, together with Major Kolos, chairman of the Maritime Kray Trade Union of Servicemen, and Captain First Rank Cherepko, deputy of the Kray Soviet, believe me, made the difficult decision to take part in today's report.

[Cherepko] Moreover, eight or 10 cooperatives have been formed here. Of course, not without the knowledge of the fleet commander, and with the direct participation of Rear Admiral Kurochkin, chief of the Mine and Torpedo Department, and the the former commander of this place. Moreover, as soon as the officers raised the issue of implementing at least an elementary order here... [pauses] because it was from here that 5 million [currency not specified] worth of silver was stolen. And when shells were exploding at the other arsenal, in one of the subunits of this arsenal, in stacks, in the open, and within range of those other shells, there were charges that if a piece of shrapnel, or some stray shell had accidentally landed there, there would be such an explosion that it would wipe it off the face of the earth. [video shows multistoried housing in close proximity of the depot, entrance to an underground bunker]

The other characteristic thing is that at that time, and on previous occasions, the cooperatives' property, such as a variety of fish conserves, and so on, were where this ammunition was supposed to be stored.

[Klychko] All the workers of these cooperatives wandered about the unit area, and that is why we, the Officers' Assembly, were forced to raise all these issues, about forbidding all the activities of these cooperatives, and reinstituting order in the unit area.

[Cherepko] Immediately, after the officers' attempt to raise the issue failed, it was moved that (Taris) Shcherbakov, the chairman of the Officers' Assembly, be dismissed. Any attempt by the officer staff to raise this, and other issues connected with the safety of the population and the armed forces themselves, would be thwarted. The officers would be put in such a position that they would be forced to resign themselves, or something. Shcherbakov, after all, is the chairman of the Officers' Assembly.

But even this location is not the most fearsome. We have locations where nuclear weapons, and chemical weapons are stored. There, they are not guarded any better. These old men long ago reached the officer and general levels and have lost touch with the active service. Therefore, in armed forces where relations between the chiefs and the subordinates are such, the danger is that in the first battle the subordinate will not fire at the enemy but at his own commander. And this is not being understood at the top, including the Yeltsin government where they are attempting something, but all too slowly. They have left all those who were on the side of the putschists at the

helm of the military. And today the armed forces, made up of leaders and their subordinates, like Shvonder and his Sharikovs [alluding to two unsavory characters in Bulgakov's satirical novel, *A Dog's Heart*, present a greater danger than anything that could explode here. [end video interview]

Nonetheless, our deep conviction is that the majority of people in our armed forces are honest and devoted to Russia, and that as a result of bitter experience, the possibility of a new tragedy will be averted.

Grain Harvest in Rostov Lower Than 1991

LD1107154892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1240 GMT 11 Jul 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Rostov-on-Don—The local department on agriculture says that this year the grain harvest in Rostov region will amount to 6.5 million tons [as received], which is 0.4 million tons less than last year.

In his July 10 interview for PF [POSTFACTUM] Deputy General Director of the Rostov Regional Department of Agriculture Juriy Ovcharov said that at present practically all farms in Rostov region began harvesting work. However, the draught in 6 northern districts of the regional resulted in grain crops being overfried there. However, experts predict that this season an average of 27 metric centers of grain will be harvested from each hectare.

According to Juriy Ovcharov's words, at present nearly all the farms in the region have to cope with a shortage of gasoline and other fuels, except diesel fuel. This may lead to the harvesting season being disrupted. Mr. Ovcharov also underscored that the difficulties with farming credits, and the unclear situation with procurement prices on grain will inevitably lead to part of the harvest being hidden away till better times.

Strategic Raw Materials 'Illicitly Exported'

PM1407131592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Video report by I. Deryugin and Ye. Gerasimenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer to camera] In Saratov the militia are convinced that strategic raw materials are being illicitly exported from military-industrial complex enterprises. However, there is no proof since the defense industry continues to operate in secrecy.

[Deryugin] Enterprising dealers from various parts of the CIS have found a new interpretation for the slogan "Make Use of Production Waste!" They have tried to export from Saratov precious metals which fall into the category of strategic materials.

Certain unsuccessful businessmen tried to fly out these crates containing 10 tonnes of nickel sheet to Vilnius.

Enterprising businessmen from Armenia who bought up two million rubles' worth of gold-containing components in Saratov—microcircuits, terminals, and so on—were also hoping to use Aeroflot services.

Road transport routes are also in operation. A few days ago, State Automobile Inspection staff stopped a truck carrying 10 tonnes of copper on its way out of Saratov. The accompanying documents feature the Saratov "Pirs" cooperative as the sender and a non-existent Kaliningrad company as the addressee. [video shows crates being investigated, an airfield, trucks, components, copper]

Tanks Scrapped, Melted Down in Chelyabinsk

PM1407093992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Video report by L. Shesterkina and S. Gordiyenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Shesterkina over video of an explosion and against the backdrop of a semi-dismantled tank] Don't be alarmed. These explosions serve entirely peaceful purposes. In the open-air section of the Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Combine's No. 1 impact-testing shop, tanks are being prepared for melt-down.

One hundred of the former Urals Military District's 250 combat vehicles have already been turned into scrap metal, which the combine urgently needs. There are tanks which have clearly been through battles, and also entirely new models. The feeling of satisfaction that offensive weapons are being destroyed is marred only by exasperation at the money and effort senselessly spent.... [video shows explosion, and tanks being dismantled]

International Affairs

Spokesman Briefs Newsmen on CIS Summit

LD1307152792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Excerpts] [Announcer] A traditional briefing for the mass media has taken place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. My colleague, Anatoliy Komirenko was there.

[Komirenko] The correspondents waited impatiently for today's meeting with the diplomats, since a delegation which had taken part in the conference of heads of Commonwealth states had just arrived from Moscow. Borys Tarasyuk, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine gave a speech to those present:

[Tarasyuk] I would like to inform you about the basic results of yesterday's conference of heads of Commonwealth of Independent States which took place in Moscow. Fifteen points were included on the agenda of yesterday's conference. Members of the Commonwealth took part in the conference and a delegation from Azerbaijan was represented as an observer. I would immediately like to say a few words about the atmosphere in which the conference took place. In my opinion the atmosphere somewhat differed from those at previous conferences of heads of states. It differed in its constructiveness, in the search for mutually acceptable decisions with respect for partners who have somewhat other ideas and approaches to various issues on the agenda.

If one were to talk about the substance, then the main attention was focussed on resolving issues that concern everybody or the overwhelming majority of CIS states. Considerably less attention was devoted to military issues. That is to say,if one were to speak from the point of view of those tendencies which we have observed during recent meetings of the conference of heads of states then I should say that, in my opinion, at the present time a positive tendency has arisen where more attention is being paid to issues that are of real concern to all of the Commonwealth states.

Among the issues which were discussed yesterday at the conference, I would first of all single out the issue on whose solution depends the standard of living of the population. This is the introduction of national currencies. An agreement was signed on this issue. This agreement envisages,I would say, a civilized procedure for the introduction of national currencies. The signatures of all heads of CIS states are under the agreement. It is envisaged that the party that introduces its national currency informs other states of the ruble zone of this three months in advance.

In accordance with a reservation from the Ukrainian side, this agreement is subject to ratification by the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Among the issues that were examined it is worth singling out issues which the Ukrainian delegation and the head of the Ukrainian state had been placing on the agenda for several months but which unfortunately, were not resolved. First of all, a decision was finally passed on the legal succession with regard to property abroad of the former Union. You know that this issue was first put forward by Ukraine as long ago as in December of last year. According to this agreement the principle of division of property of the former Union has been established. This principle is determined by a so-called aggregate indicator. The (?share) of every state of the Commonwealth is determined according to the share of the divided former Union's foreign debt. Therefore, for Ukraine this share will simply amount to 16.37 percent of the entire property abroad of the former Union.

On issues that relate to military matters I would single out the issue of strategic armed forces of the CIS. There were consultations beforehand with ministries of defence of CIS states. A problem arose within the framework of these consultations that related to issues of operative and administrative control, with regard to formations of strategic armed forces on the territory of one or another state. In the course of the discussions that were held by the heads of states it was recognised as expedient to concentrate attention on issues which do not divide states but which might establish a joint base for further work. A minuted dicision was passed according to which the four so-called nuclear states of the CIS expressed their desire to carry out the regulations of the agreement on reducing strategic offensive arms from 1991 and also the Lisbon protocol from 23 May of this year. The majority of documents approved by yesterday's conference of heads of states is in Ukraine's interests and was signed by the president of Ukraine accordingly.

[Announcer] Mr. Tarasyuk informed those present that bilateral consultative meetings also took place, in particular Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko met with his Russian colleague, Andrey Kozyrev. An official visit by the Russian minister to Ukraine is expected. [passage omitted]

Mr. Tarasyuk also mentioned that an agreement had been reached between Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin with regard to a joint initiative at the next summit conference in Helsinki on 9 and 10 of July this year.

Supply of Armored Vehicles to Azerbaijan Denied

LD1407121692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1059 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 14 Jul (TASS)—Ukraine has refuted reports that it is supplying armored vehicles to Azerbaijan. A statement circulated here today by the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry notes that over the past six months, no such equipment has been sent to Russia, Azerbaijan, or Armenia.

Last week, the Armenian Ministry of Defense stated that two echelons of tanks (about 80 vehicles) had set off from the territory of Ukraine in the direction of Azerbaijan and that they were to take part in combat actions against Nagorno-Karabakh.

Guards Report Moldova Border Stabilized

LD1407120392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] According to the press service of the border guards of Ukraine, the situation on the border with Moldova has been stabilized. It has been relatively calm and quiet in that area during the past 48 hours. The flow of refugees from Pridnestrovye has diminished, although the border guards still have much work to do preventing armed militants from crossing the border.

The state administration in Chernivtsy region has registered over 100 refugees from Pridnestrovye. In the main they are pensioners, women with children, and invalids. The commission set up under the state administration is engaged in the job placement of the refugees and rendering financial aid worth 1,000 coupons per person.

Black Sea Delegation Suggests Meeting on Fleet

LD1407170192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] On 13 July, a routine working session of the Ukrainian state delegation for the Black Sea Fleet negotiations took place chaired by Vasyl Vasylyovych Durdynets, first deputy head of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. The situation that had developed with the fleet was discussed. The delegation came to the conclusion to suggest to the Russian delegation to hold in the near future in Ukraine a working meeting between the leaders and experts of the delegations with the participation of the defense ministers of Ukraine and Russia in which they would discuss ways of realizing the agreements reached in Dagomys by the leadership of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the implementation of the instructions that had been given, and the concrete issues for the preparation of the next round of negotiations. This proposition has been sent to the Russian state delegation in Moscow. At the same time, it was emphasized that unilateral actions by either side that would aggravate the situation are inadmissible until the issue is solved through interstate negotiations.

New Vice Prime Minister on Resettling Germans

LD1407150392 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1532 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Excerpts] President Leonid Kravchuk's proposal to return Soviet Germans to the areas of their former residence in Ukraine, enunciated several months ago during his meeting in Bonn with Helmut Kohl, is being implemented. This has been stated by Horst Waffenschmidt, parliamentary secretary of state. He heads the FRG delegation which visited Odessa and the oblast last Saturday and Sunday. The guests held a thorough conversation with Valentin Simonenko, representative of the Ukrainian president in Odessa Oblast, who has just been appointed first vice prime minister of Ukraine. He stressed that the state policy of sovereign Ukraine regards the program of returning the Germans as one of the priority tasks. The real condition of the Ukrainian economy, however, allows the return to Odessa Oblast of no more than 500 families during the first two years (by 1994). The oblast authorities already have almost 3,000 applications from German families who aspire to resettle here from Central Asia and Kazakhstan. The volume of these applications is growing. Therefore, the implementation of the large-scale program to resettle about 20,000 people during the first two years with an increase in the numbers of resettled Germans to 120,000, as it used to be before the war, would be possible only with active state and private investments from Germany. [passage omitted]

Horst Waffenschmidt and Valentin Simonenko stressed the need to submit the whole complex of issues for discussion by a Ukrainian-German intergovernmental commission.

Council of Europe Representatives Arrive

TA1407172992 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1500 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Kiev, July 14 (A.A)—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived here on Tuesday [14 July] on the first day of a tour of five ex-Soviet republics, as the current chairman of the Ministerial Committee of the 27-nation Council of Europe (COE). Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the council, is accompanying Cetin to visit Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to try to strengthen their links with Europe.

Cetin and Lalumiere were met at Kiev airport by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and other senior officials. They later met with President Leonid Kravchuk who told reporters he will make every effort to inform the COE with the latest developments in Ukraine.

Cetin expressed satisfaction for meeting with Kravchuk as chairman of the COE and that it coincides with a time of important global changes. He said the Commonwealth of Independent States is at the same time going through a democratization process and making efforts to join international organizations. Turkey, he said, fully supports these efforts and gives great importance to Ukraine's passage to democracy and market economy.

Cetin Comments on Meeting

TA1407174192 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Statement by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin to Turkish Radio and Television in Kiev on 14 July—recorded]

[Text] As you know, Turkey, in its capacity as the current president of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, wants to increase relations between the Council of Europe—and especially Europe's democratic institutions—and the republics that have recently gained their independence. This tour is being conducted on Turkey's initiative. We held a very beneficial 2-hour meeting with Ukrainian President Kravchuk and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. The visit was very beneficial. Our aim was to help Europe get to know those countries, with which we are very well acquainted. I believe that the visit was very useful from that viewpoint. We will be holding further contacts in the coming days.

News Conference Held

TA1507061292 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Yasar Kefeli report from Kiev]

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Catherine Lalumiere, Council of Europe secretary general, held a joint news conference in Kiev today at the end of their contacts there. Cetin said that their aim is to establish cooperation and dialogue between the Council of Europe and the independent states that emerged following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Pointing out that important developments are taking place in the world, Cetin said that these newly independent states must fall in step with the changing world. He stressed that the full membership of these countries in the Council of Europe will take time but that support will be extended to them in their democratization efforts and in their transition to a free market economy.

Catherine Lalumiere said that Ukraine voiced a desire to become a member of the Council of Europe and that during her contacts, she observed certain positive developments regarding this issue. On the other hand, she added, Ukraine has certain economic and political difficulties. We hope they will be resolved after a certain of period of time.

Lalumiere pointed out that the Council of Europe might extend help to Ukraine's democratization process in the form of technical personnel and information.

Tomorrow, Cetin and Lalumiere will go to Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, the second leg of their tour.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Appoints Commander of 17th Air Army

LD1507013392 Kiev Ukrainian Television First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk issued a decree appointing Aviation Major General Gennadiy Vasylyovych Kolodiy as commander of the 17th Air Army.

Further Reportage on Vice Premier's Dismissal

OW1407190292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk's relieving Vladimir Lanovoyy of his duties as vice premier has provoked various speculations in the republic's political circles. On Interfax correspondent's request, chief of the president's press service Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov explained that Vladimir Lanovoyy, in holding one of the key offices in the Ukrainian government, was simultaneously one of the key figures of the "Novaya Ukraina" ("New Ukraine") political alliance which stands in opposition to the incumbent government.

The head of the president's press service recalls several instances when Leonid Kravchuk advised Vladimir Lanovoyy "to finalize his position", which could in no way be interpreted as the president's coercing his former vice premier to resign. Notwithstanding that, on July 10 Vladimir Lanovoyy publicly announced that he had no intentions to resign and wished to further his association with "Novaya Ukraina".

At his recent meeting with a group of US journalists, President Kravchuk characterized Lanovoyy's position as "a political nonsense". In the meantime, he made a decision to replace Vladimir Lanovoyy by a 52-year-old civil engineer Valentin Simonenko (until this appointment Mr Simonenko had been holding the post of the Ukrainian president's representative in Odessa - IF [INTERFAX]).

At the moment of the release of this Bulletin, President Kravchuk is preparing for a meeting with the trade unions' strike committees. It will be his last action before a holiday. The well-informed circles in Kiev reason that the head of state will be forced to put his foot down at the meeting with the strike committee because in his opinion, the development of the strike movement under the circumstances means nothing other than attempt at "snatching a tidbit from the Ukrainian people".

The Presidential Bulletin is planning to present the details of this meeting in its next release.

According to the information provided by the Interfax correspondent in Kiev, Leonid Kravchuk is going to spend his holiday in the Crimea.

Lanovoyy on Kravchuk's Treatment

LD1407154192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1339 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—Ex premier of Ukraine Vladimir Lanovoyy declares: President Kravchuk never treated me with

loyalty. His leaving of the post Vladimir Lanovoyy connects with differences of his course of economic reforms with the programme, proposed by the Cabinet of Ministers [CM] and president. He also declared to KOMMERSANT on July 13 the following: Already in September this year Ukraine will have to settle its foreign debt and the Cabinet of Ministers is working now on the decision to toughen the procedure of the export of the production—50 [percent] of the money gotten will go to the state. In case the enterprise tries to conceal currency returns it will be fined.

According to Lanovoyy it is against the principles of foreign economy reform, without which all the economic transformations are not going to be efficient. We were just working on the resolution, liberalizing foreign trade which could give the right to currency owners to use it in their own way, selling it on the internal market, thus creating conditions for internal convertibility. This is the only way to get currency. We were going to oppose the CM draft resolution in economy department on July 13. Under this resolution the state intends to use administrative methods to get currency from Ukrainian exporters. Vladimir Lanovoyy states that the National Bank submitted a draft law on currency control to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. Under this law all the currency returns is planned to be bought out at the rate settled by the National Bank. According to the rules set by the bank itself currency will by divided among the buyers. Vladimir Lanovoyy stated to KOMMERSANT in his commentaries on the situation of centralized currency circulation inside Ukraine: I was all against such a procedure but my appeal was not discussed at the Supreme Soviet. In Vladimir Lanovoyy's opinion this is an attempt to restore administrative methods. He thinks he was included to the government just to show that the process of renovation is under way and their are progressive economic transformations. Actually it was an imitation of the reforms. When the moment of their actual implementation and real action came we met resistance and opposition.

Lanovoyy was surprised with Kravchuk's remarks over TV that vice- premier cannot be in the government because he is a member of Novaya Ukraine (New Ukraine), supporting radical economic reforms. If president is also for radical reforms I don't see any logics in his statement trying to prove that Lanovoyy cannot be in the government being a member of the organization which supports the things president himself intends to fulfill. According to Lanovoyy the reason is that Kravchuk is not in a hurry to implement radical economic reforms. In ex-vice premier's opinion president can't help taking into account deputies' opinion. It is worth mentioning that there are a lot of industrial enterprises managers, leaders of state and collective farms representatives of local administrations among the deputies. The aim of them is to maintain and save existing economic order. The government also has to take them into account. Lanovoyy thinks that the deputy corps should be reelected. He is convinced that president is not sure that by means of market self- regulating principles one can improve the situation and lead the economy out of the crisis. He thinks that old administrative methods can still work provided they are strictly applied. Besides president is afraid of serious opposition and that is why he tries to suppress new public movements new Ukraine in particular. Forecasting further development of the events Lanovoyy stated that his removal will have adverse effects on the relations with IMF which trusted him and placed Lanovoyy's team in the same row as Yegor Gaydar.

Dismissal Assessed

PM1407133592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 1

[O. Musafirova report: "Ukraine: Helsinki Process Ends in Vice Premier's Resignation"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukrainian Vice Premier and Minister of the Economy Vladimir Lanovoyy has been removed from office by President L. Kravchuk. The only person out of the whole cabinet. Everything was done at lightning speed, and it seems that the fateful decree was signed right by the ramp of the aircraft which brought Leonid Makarovich back from Finland.

Moreover, republic television had transmitted an interview from on board the aircraft back on Saturday evening and the whole of Ukraine heard who is damaging the roots of young statehood and to what ends, who is dreaming of anarchy, who is reluctant to join forces for joint work, and who is demonstrating a lack of political culture.

Leonid Makarovich suggested: "Take the actions of the government and president and see whether they are aimed against the people's interests or whether this is an objective situation that cannot be otherwise." So all that remained for the accusers and denouncers inside and outside parliament was to look on. But quietly. "Those who... exploit the complexity of the situation will answer under the law," the president warned.

An unflattering description was given to Vice Premier Lanovoyy. "He espouses different positions and he represents 'New Ukraine' in the government. This is political nonsense—to be simultaneously in opposition and in the Cabinet of Ministers, to criticize... I said to him long ago: Make up your mind which stance to adopt..."

So Lanovoyy was put in his place—he was banished from the "team of like-minded thinkers" for unacceptable behavior.

It was in the wake of the scandal over the closed "Kristall" Association that things took off for Lanovoyy, who is still not yet 40. After disclosing certain things for peaceful and scientific purposes and thereby gaining direct entry to the Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics, he began a surprisingly powerful ascent and entered the Cabinet of Ministers as a doctor of sciences.

Journalists, always quick to attribute nicknames, even christened him "Kravchuk's left hand." As opposed to the "right hand"—State Counselor Aleksandr Yemelyanov, author of the program entitled "Basic Prinipcles of Ukraine's National Economic Policy."

For a while, it was believed that the president gave his fatherly blessing to the young vice premier's "criticism," giving him credit for his knowledge and professionalism. And that he regarded with equanimity the intention of "New Ukraine"—a social organization of politicians and businessmen whose leadership includes Lanovoyy—to form a shadow cabinet. Against the backdrop of Premier Fokin's drifting ship, the presence of a reserve team with its own plan for economic reform provoked more optimism than concern.

But when the ship finally capsized at the whim of the market waves, the president preferred to "cut off" his "left hand" in order to prevent it from grabbing the helm. Obviously, he directly associated a change of government at the present moment with the undermining of Ukraine's political and economic stability.

Thus the group of deputies and the press who had danced to the same tune of "Resign! Resign!" got what they wanted. Admittedly, instead of Fokin, it was the "market reformer" Lanovoyy who was cast into the shadows.

It has to be noted that in recent days the vice premier had been less than consistent. One minute he ostentatiously claimed to want to resign, and the next to want to remain in order to keep up the fight against inertia [rutina].

But after the fait accompli Lanovoyy stated openly that what is happening in Ukraine is a clear attempt to revive the administrative levers of government. The ex-vice premier offered an evaluation of the path already traveled: "I was brought into the government in order to give the West an impression of reform." Speaking of the president, he noted that he "is afraid of constructive opposition and so he is trying to suppress it."

L.M. Kravchuk has already appointed V. Simonenko, who previously occupied the post of presidential representative in Odessa, to the newly created post of second first vice premier.

Agricultural Production Down for 1992

OW1407194392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Statistics Ministry said that agricultural production in Ukraine decreased. Farms produced 460.6 thousand fewer tons of meat (22%), 2069.2 thousand tons less milk (23%), and 9 million fewer eggs (19%) over the first half of the year in comparison with the same period of the last year.

The drop in milk production hit all regions of Ukraine. The average cow produced only 1184 litres of milk for the period, which is 296 liters (20%) less than last year. The figures for Chernovitski, Vinnitski, and Poltavski regions are 508, 443, and 384 litres, respectively. The production of poultry and cattle decreased in all regions of Ukraine.

Cabinet Reshuffle, Energy Sector Plans Viewed

PM1407133392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Tsikora article: "New Blood From Odessa for Kiev Cabinet"]

[Text] On the eve of the widespread strike called by the trade unions for 20 July the Ukrainian executive has carried out cadre changes in the top echelons of the administration and amended the strategic economic course.

Returning from a working trip around several European countries, Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk announced some changes to the government. The vice premier—Minister V. Lanovoyy, who had politically represented the views of the "new Ukraine" opposed to the government—is removed from the cabinet. Henceforth, economic reform in the republic will be the responsibility of V. Simonenko, who has been appointed first vice prime minister by the president.

There are now two first vice premiers in the Ukrainian Government. Since Simonenko has never been an industrialist and has no experience of actually running a business, for many people his appointment came as a surprise. He represented Odessa in the republic's parliament, and had until recently been chairman of the city executive committee and subsequently presidential spokesman. In parliamentary circles the 52-year-old Simonenko has the reputation of being a typical Odessan—with a quick mind and a sharp tongue. As for his economic activity, so far he has not made any public statement about his plans for economic transformations in Ukraine other than to "push the idea" of granting Odessa free economic zone status.

Meanwhile the Ukrainian economy's strategic course is undergoing changes before our very eyes. At its last session the Duma—an influential organ under the Ukrainian president—examined a question of fundamental importance for Ukraine's future: the state and development of the fuel and energy complex. And the task was formulated for discussion not as an engineering project but as a political and economic project—energy self-sufficiency to safeguard Ukrainian sovereignty.

The main sources of energy in Ukraine in the foreseeable future will continue to be coal and uranium. The known supplies of coal in the republic are sufficient to last 1,000 years, and uranium supplies will be sufficient for hundreds of years, given current consumption levels.

In order to achieve energy independence from neighboring states, Ukraine is seriously engaged in developing coal mining at a modern technical level and introducing steam and gas installations at thermal power stations. It is planned to sink new coal mines in the Donbass and in the west of the republic. Steam and gas installations, in whose production the former USSR lagged behind by 20-30 years, are to be purchased abroad. Production of them in Ukraine will be organized subsequently. As for nuclear power, if the republic dares build new nuclear power stations, they will be fundamentally different in their technology from existing ones.

Here are another two fundamental provisions formulated by specialists. In their opinion, Ukraine should under no circumstances join the unified power system of the former USSR with its single control panel. Neighboring states should provide each other with power supplies and contingency backup on a fundamentally different basis—along the lines of the West European system. There, each country's power system operates independently and in parallel, ready to help out a neighbor at any time.

The second piece of news is that Ukraine does not rule out privatization of its power-engineering sector. A well-known British firm commissioned by Ukrainian power engineers is completing its elaboration of this project.

Presidential Body Examines Energy Sources

LD1407221692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Ukraine's presidential body Duma has examined the issue of self-provision with energy as an important factor of Ukraine's sovereignty. Under a document passed by Duma, coal and uranium will remain the basic energy sources. The existing coal deposits will suffice for 1,000 years while uranium (?just) for several hundred at the present consumption level. As for atomic energy, if Ukraine decides to build new atomic power stations they will be safer and more reliable. The meeting pointed out that Ukraine did not rule out the possibility of privatization in energy branches.

Decree Issued on Closing Chernobyl Units

OW1307224392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 13 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The cabinet has issued a decree on measures to be taken in connection with the closure of units one and three of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. The document provides for a set of steps to ensure the safe stoppage of the station and for social security measures for the staff who will lose their jobs as a result of the closure. Within the next few years a comprehensive survey of the station is to be carried out and a plan drafted on the basis of which the station will be brought out of operation. A special body will be set up this year to run the work.

The decree stresses the need for the rapid construction of new power stations in the republic in connection with the closure of the Chernobyl station. A relevant program will have to be approved a draft for which is nearly ready.

IF [INTERFAX] note: At a recent meeting with French Industry Minister Dominique Tros-Cannes, President Leonid Kravchuk expressed support for the parliament decision to stop the Chernobyl station in 1993. Kravchuk also believes part of the $700m [million] aid offered to former Soviet republics by France and Germany should be used to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

Order Issued To Curtail Seizure of Kiev Land

LD1407194392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Taking into account the extraordinary situation which has come about in the city in connection with the unauthorized seizure of plots of land, the representative of Ukraine's president in Kiev, (?Ivan Solyy), issued an order to curtail such illegal action. Those guilty of this will be reprimanded. Envisaged are fines up to 10,000 coupons. Besides this the guilty persons will have to pay 100 coupons for every square meter of territory illegally seized every month. The fines will be leveled by the administrative commission of the district state administration. Regardless of the payment of the fines, the guilty persons will be obliged to tear down the buildings constructed there within a period of one month and put the land in order at their own expense.

Byelarus

Shushkevich, Landbergis To Discuss Relations

OW1407175692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Byelarusian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, has today left for the town of Gervyaty in Ostrovets District of Grodno Region, mainly populated by Lithuanians. There he will meet the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis.

IF [INTERFAX] note: There are a total of 10,000 Lithuanians living in Grodno Region today.

According to sources close to the Byelarusian leadership, Shushkevich and Landsbergis will discuss some of the most urgent problems in Byelarussian-Lithuanian relations, including the national minorities issue. On the latter they will possibly sign a special agreement. Local observers believe that it is above all Lithuania that is interested in such a document, since it has recently been a fairly strong sentiment among Byelarusian intellectuals that Vilnius and the area around it should be returned to Byelarus.

The sentiment, however, is mainly being entertained by radical nationalists whose political positions in the republic are fairly weak. PB [Presidential Bulletin] has already written about the provenance of the idea and quoted some of the statements made by its proponents. May we just mention that it was first launched by former Byelarusian leader Nikolay Dementei - as some experts believe, at the suggestion of Soviet ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev. After Lithuania had proclaimed its independence Dementei said Byelarus was entitled to demand that Lithuania return it the above-mentioned territories.

This is what Shushkevich said in an interview with IF: "Byelarus guarantees the protection of the interests of non-Byelarusians living on its territory. The legitimate authorities of the republic will take care of them, and we needn't ask anyone else to do it. This, however, should be formalized by relevant bilateral documents, a system which has long existed in the entire civilized world. There is the Human Rights Declaration, the Paris Charter, and other international documents, on the basis of which we can work out a perfectly democratic and legally correct agreement."

Shushkevich said he was seriously concerned about the events in the Dniester region of Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh, and South Ossetia. In his view they are caused by the absence of bilateral agreements, which is why he has recently been paying close attention to national minorities' problems both in Byelarus and in neighboring states. During his visit to Poland, for example, he met Byelarusians living there and discussed their problems with Polish leaders.

Defense Official: Strategic Troops Not Needed

LD1407130192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1033 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By BELTA correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy]

[Text] Minsk, 14 Jul (TASS)—The republic does not need subunits of strategic troops, the most powerful fleet of tanks in Europe, or any other weapons systems deployed on the territory of the republic in accordance with the military doctrine of the former USSR. This is what Colonel-General Petr Chaus, deputy defense minister of Byelarus, declared in an interview to the republican newspaper ZVYAZDA. He underscored, however, that the republican leadership understands Russia is not yet able to redeploy these troops on its own territory.

Earlier Byelarus declared it is determined to become a neutral, nuclear-free state and has not signed the CIS states treaty on collective security because, as an independent state, it does not wish to enter into any military unions or alliances. General Chaus noted that Byelarus considered its national armed forces as an attribute of its statehood and as an integral part of a single European system of security.

Increasing Number of Officers Seek Home Service

LD1107081292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1730 GMT 10 Jul 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Minsk—Byelarus is unable to accommodate all officers wishing to do service in the republic.

From May to July, the number of officers who come from Byelarus and who are doing service away from the republic but would like to return home and serve in the Byelarusian National Army has grown from 7,000 to 10,000. According to the Byelarus Defence Ministry Personnel Directorate, at present, about 45,000 Byelarusian officers are doing service in other CIS states. According to the directorate, in 1992 Byelarus would be able to accommodate only 160 servicemen, mainly from the hot points of the ex-USSR. At the moment, there is a redundancy of officers with hundreds of them being off-staff and waiting to get an appointment. Besides, the reductions now underway will make about 20,000-22,000 officers redundant and resigned to the reserve. According to the servicemen, it was for this reason that on July 8 the Supreme Soviet of the republic adopted an appeal to the servicemen doing service both in and away from Byelarus. The appeal points out that the Supreme Soviet and the Government of Byelarus appreciate the patriotic sentiments of the officers who happened to be dispersed around the vast areas of the CIS and who are dreaming of returning to their native land. Both the Government and Parliament will be doing their utmost

to meet the officers' requests. However, to accommodate all of them at home with considerable troop reductions now underway is an extremely hard thing to do, the document says. The Supreme Soviet Presidium of Byelarus appealed on the officers to show patience and understanding and expressed hope that in this difficult situation Byelarusian officers will be worthy of the traditionally high reputation of Byelarusian servicemen and will be honestly doing their service in military units preventing any instances of desertion and other illegal actions. .

Byelarus remembers its sons, the appeal says, and will do everything in its power for them to eventually come home.

KGB Opens Archives to Council of Ministers

LD1307141192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 13 Jul 92

[By BELTA correspondent Aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 13 TASS—The Byelarusian State Security Committee (KGB) opened its special archives to staffers from the chief archive department of the republican Council of Ministers. According to its chief Aleksandr Mikhalchenko, by September more than 40,000 volumes will leave the walls of the KGB.

"Cooperation with archive workers from the State Security Committee of the republic will significantly speed up the work of our services," Mikhalchenko said. "The programme to return from Moscow archives of the former Soviet KGB, relating to the life and activities of Byelarusian citizens, became the first concrete step."

Moldova

Adviser Stresses Economic Ties With Russia

OW1407162992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The fact of yesterday's visit of the Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy to Chisinau and the recent meeting of Yeltsin with Snegur carry a positive charge in themselves", declared in his exclusive interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] the state adviser of the Moldovan President Cheslav Chobanu. "We have no other way but a civilized dialogue", stressed he.

Speaking on the Russian-Moldovan relations, Chobanu emphasized the need "to transfer attention from the political to the economic sphere". "Russia is our greatest partner and we always maintained traditional mutually beneficial relations", he noted. According to the state adviser, Moldova has "much more opportunities to find buyers of its goods on the Russian than on the western market".

More detailed Chobanu's interview is presented in "Presidential Bulletin" dated July 15.

Dniester Spokesman on Results of Rutskoy Meet

OW1407192392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A reviewer of the Dniester republic Parliament spokesman, Nikolay Shved, said that Tiraspol leadership called the talks with the Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy "very difficult and prolonged". Shved did not have official documents on results of the meetings by Tuesday [14 July] evening. However, some sources say that Tiraspol leadership is disappointed in the meeting. One source says that there was no mention of the autonomy of the Dniester republic.

Aleksandr Rutskoy, empowered by Boris Yeltsin, held talks with both Moldova and Dniester. Chisinau has already expressed satisfaction with his visit.

The Dniester President Igor Smirnov told the Parliament of the meeting with Rutskoy. Igor Smirnov said they reached an agreement on five issues. Firstly, he pointed out the necessity of joint agreement between Russia and Moldova on principles of settling the dispute on the basis of Russian-Georgian agreement and taking into account the Dniester republic's opinion. Secondly, Russia and Moldova, and optionally Ukraine, must adopt a political declaration taking into account the Dniester republic's opinion. Thirdly, the Moldovan government must include Dniester officials. Fourthly, Dniester deputies must be returned to the Moldovan Parliament. Fifthly, a joint commission to work out scenarios for bringing the peacekeeping forces to the troubled area must be set up.

Nikolay Shved said that after the conditions listed are met the status of the Dniester area would be discussed.

Snegur, U.S. Senator Discuss Dniester Conflict

AU1407164092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1000 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 14/7/1992—Monday, July 13, the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, received the American Senator Larry Pressler, author of an amendment to the bill on granting relief to Russia, which the Western press considered to be an amendment for the freedom of Moldova, informs MOLDOVA PRES.

The Moldovan president thanked Senator Pressler for his activity directed at safeguarding peace and democracy in the territory of Moldova. "Your address to the Senate," added Mr. Snegur, has had a considerable influence on Russia's policy as concerns Moldova, which I could notice during my July 3 interview with Boris Yeltsin. Their positive effect can be felt now as well, the

cease-fire agreement has been fulfilled, the refugees from the Dniester region have started to go back home."

We are ready to continue this process of settling the conflict in the eastern districts of Moldova, initiated with the help of the United States, until a final solution is found, continued Mircea Snegur. The president of Moldova also expressed his wish that the U.S. Administration be a sure ally of Moldova as regards both the total settlement of the conflict and other aspects of cooperation.

Asked by Senator Pressler to be more specific, President Snegur mentioned the fields in which the assistance of America would be of priority for Moldova. He said that first of all further influence should be necessary on the leaders of Russia for an end to be put to the conflict in the Dniester region and the 14th Army withdraw from the territory of Moldova, so that the Republic of Moldova be deprived of no territories following this conflict. Mircea Snegur said he hoped that the mechanism of the commercial agreement recently concluded between the United States and the Republic of Moldova would function efficiently and the opening soon of Moldova's embassy in Washington would allow for close bilateral relations to be established and ways to be sketched for economic cooperation, including agriculture, tourism etc, says MOLDOVA PRES.

The president of Moldova and the American senator exchanged opinions on the development of Moldova as an independent state.

Aspects were also tackled concerning the difficulties related to the withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldova.

Dniester Advances Proposals To Resolve Conflict

LD1507064292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0554 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau July 15 TASS—The Dniester parliament advanced a number of proposals to settle the conflict in the region at its session, which ended late on Tuesday [14 July].

In particular, it proposed to set up a monitoring commission including representatives from the conflicting sides, which will act jointly with military observers from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and the Dniester region.

A proposal was voiced to create a mixed peace-keeping force in which military contingents of the warring sides and Romania will not be allowed to participate.

Boris Akulov, one of the Dniester leaders, told TASS the region will not delegate its representatives to Moldova's new government until the status of the region is determined within Moldova.

It was reported that Chisinau offers four ministerial posts and one post of a deputy minister to the Dniester region.

The Dniester parliament decided that deputies representing the population of the left bank regions of Moldova, as well as the city of Bendery, will not take part in the session of Moldova's parliament scheduled for July 21.

According to reports from Tiraspol, the parliament of the Dniester region has applied to Russia and Ukraine to assume the functions of protectors and guarantors of human rights, freedoms and interests of the region during the armed conflict.

Dniester Wants Russia, Ukraine To Guarantee Rights

LD1507023192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Proposals to regulate the conflict in the region were put forward at a session of the Dniester region Supreme Soviet that finished late in the evening on 14 July. It was suggested to set up, in particular, a monitoring commission [kontrolnaya komissiya] of the representatives of the conflicting parties, which is to interact with military observers from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and the Dniester region. It is suggested to set up mixed peacekeeping forces where military contingents of the adversaries and Romania must not participate.

The Dniester region Supreme Soviet has appealed to the Russian Federation and Ukraine to assume the functions of patron states and states-guarantors of the observance of rights, freedoms, and interests of the Dniester region republic, ITAR-TASS reports.

Prime Minister Visits Dniester Conflict Zone

LD1407165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1623 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Chisinau July 14 TASS—Moldovan Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli visited on Tuesday [14 July] the villages of Kochiery in the conflict-torn area of Moldova to check the implementation of agreements on the disengagement of the warring sides and on the withdrawal of military hardware.

Sangeli met with commanders of Moldovan armed units and local residents to discuss ways to normalise the situation in the region and compensate for the damage caused by the war.

Dniester Leader Urges 'Normal' Ties with Moldova

LD1407215392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

["Vesti" newscast video report from Dniester region by correspondent S. Barabanov]

[Text] [Announcer] Even though right up to the very introduction of the disengagement forces in South Ossetia we continued to receive reports on exchanges of forces and new clashes from the conflict zone, in broadcasting reports from hot spots, we continue to hope as before that the Ossetian variant will became a model for resolving other acute conflicts, in particular those connected with problems of the Russian-speaking population that has found itself in nearby foreign countries. Today this applies first of all to the Dniester region. Aleksandr Rutskoy paid a visit there yesterday. His conversation with the leaders of the left bank area was long and difficult. On the whole, however, Aleksandr Vladimirovich is satisfied with the results of his trip.

[Barabanov] Last night in the Dniester region passed to the accompaniment of shots in Bendery where mortars and Alazan rocket launchers were again used, killing one person and injuring one. In the remaining areas, the situation was quiet. Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who visited Chisinau and Tiraspol, invited Ukraine and Moldova to sign a declaration, jointly with Russia, on the principles of the settlement of the conflict, taking into account the position of the Dniester region side, by which the main points of the status of the left bank area will be determined. He also proposed that a trilateral commission be set up, which would take on a peacemaking mission. Russia also called on the Dniester region deputies to return to the parliament of Moldova and on Moldova, in turn, to grant Tiraspol representatives three ministerial portfolios in the new government. In this way, hope for peace has re-emerged. How is it seen by the people of the Dniester region themselves?

[A. Karaman, vice president of the Dniester Region Moldovan Republic] Of course, the position of the Dniester Region Moldovan Republic remains the defense of the republic, which was set up in accordance with the people's will, and the course toward independence and sovereignty for the republic. We continue, as before, to invite Moldova to find mutually acceptable forms for concluding mutually advantageous good-neighborly treaties. Call them what you like—federation, a confederation—but, naturally, we would want these two peoples, two banks, which lived together for many years, to remain in good-neighborly, normal, family relations as throughout the civilized world.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Urges Restriction of Exports

OW1407180692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presiential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At today's cabinet meeting called to sum up the performance of the Kazakh economy during the first six months of the year, President Nursultan Nazarbayev accused broker firms and other commercial structures operating in the republic of selling Kazakh metal to foreign companies getting round the existing regulations thus depriving the republic of "vast amounts of hard currency."

He said that, during his recent visit to Helsinki, some Finnish businesspeople had told him their companies had bought 7,000 tonnes of cathode copper in Kazakhstan at world prices via some CIS broker firms "unknown" to the Kazakh leadership.

Nazarbayev instructed the customs service to strengthen its control of the export of raw materials from the republic. All Baltic states were selling Kazakh metal, he said, and had sold 350,000 tonnes of oil for the past year although they had not produced a single tonne of it.

The President said production had fallen in "nearly every industry" in the first six months of the year. The national income was 20.25% lower than last year's, productivity had gone down by 19.8%, and industrial output, by 12%.

Nor was enough fodder being stored up for the winter. The amount procured by July 1, Nazarbayev said, was 79% of last year's.

He was alarmed by the unrestricted growth of wages and salaries too. This year the banks have allocated 55bn [billion] rubles for wages and salaries. This month the average monthly wage was 1,750 rubles, whereas in 1990 it was never higher than 250 rubles.

He informed the cabinet that he was preparing a decree establishing the maximum wage for industrial workers to be paid out of state funds as being no higher than four times the minimum wage. Any amount over and above that level should be paid out of the enterprises' own profits.

Financially Kazakhstan was dependent on Russia, Nazarbayev said, since it had the same monetary unit, the ruble. The President stressed the need for the republic to introduce a separate currency. At the same time, the ruble should, in his opinion, be used in transactions with other CIS states along with Kazakh currency.

PRESIDENT GOING ON HOLIDAY

Sources close to Nazarbayev informed IF [INTERFAX] that he is going on holiday tomorrow (July 15). He may spend part of it abroad.

Cabinet Sets State Order Grain Purchase Prices

PM1507114592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 1

[Report from PRAVDA correspondents' roundup under the "News in Brief" rubric: "Harvest-92"]

[Text] The Republic of Kazakhstan Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution "On Measures To Ensure the Organized Harvest and Fulfillment of the State Order for Agricultural Produce in 1992." The document lists prices for grain. For example, prices for wheat of various grades range from 10,000 rubles [R] to R6,000,000 [6,000 tysyach, as published] a tonne, soybean costs R12,500, buckwheat R13,300, and rice R10,400.

Surplus grain left on farms after fulfillment of the state order will be sold centrally in the foreign market with a guaranteed return in hard currency.

Farmers To Manage Harvest Without CIS Aid

LD1507014192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] It has been decided to harvest grain in the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan without using combine harvesters from the Commonwealth countries for the first time. They are demanding excessively high payment and this is despite the fact that up to 10 million tonnes of grain have always been supplied to our neighbors. Local farmers believe they can manage on their own if there is an organized harvest in the south followed quickly by a second harvest in the north. A special train leaves the capital tomorrow for the virgin soil area, taking 15,000 Alma-Ata residents to the fields for the harvest. In addition to the machine operators who are arriving from the south, 12,500 cars are also heading north.

Benefits Raised, VAT on Necessities Reduced

PM1407142992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vladimir Ardayev report: "Less Well-Off Get Support"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The Kazakh Government is taking measures to provide state support to poorer sections of the population.

Accordingly, all nonworking pensioners receiving a pension of less than 1,200 rubles [R] a month, as well as Great Patriotic War invalids, will receive a one-shot payment of R250. Irrespective of their material position, all families with children of up to three years of age will

receive a unified benefit payment of R433 in July. Families with children aged between three and 18 will receive R317.

Moreover, the Cabinet of Ministers resolution ratifies the list of prime necessities taxed at a preferential value-added tax [VAT] rate (10 percent). These include milk, dairy products, fish, fishery products (excluding delicatessen products), potatoes, vegetables, eggs, sugar, tea, and vegetable oil.

Largest Enterprise Prepares for Privatization

OW1307233892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 13 Jul 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan's largest enterprise, the science and production group, Djezkazgantsvetmet, is getting ready for privatization. This was learned by an Interfax correspondent at the State Property Committee. The group is estimated to be worth 1bn. [billion] 700 mn. [million] rubles.

The group will be converted into a public stock company with its own 30,000 workers and pensioners, the workers of its subsidiaries, and its foreign investors becoming the shareholders. The State Property Committee will hold 31% of the shares, and 19% will be held in reserve; the remainder will be sold or transfered free of charge.

The Djezkazgantsvetmet Group produces cathode copper, copper, lead and zinc concentrates and acids.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Comments on CIS September Summit

OW1407180792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and a working group coordinator of the CIS Heads of State and Heads of Government Councils, Ivan Korotchenya discussed the preparation for the CIS summit in Bishkek in September.

The Kyrgyz president's press service said that a CIS charter was on the agenda for the meeting. Ivan Korotchenya said the summit would give "a possibility to take two steps forward in strengthening the CIS".

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The last CIS summit in Moscow focused on legal and organizational principles of the CIS prepared by an expert group. The document was harshly criticized by most participants who believe that some of its theses called into being approaches the Soviet Union used. For example, the Speaker of the Byelarusian Parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, is convinced that a charter must be based on the agreements already signed within the CIS, but not on ideas of some officials who usurped functions unusual for them.

Supports Role of Strong Russia

OW1407163292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev held a press conference in Bishkek today. Akayev said that the CIS summit on September 25 would consider its draft charter, issues of economic legislation, cooperation in elimination of consequences of natural disasters and emergencies, and regulations for a CIS consultation and coordinating economic council based in Kiev. Askar Akayev pointed out the necessity to set up CIS coordinating structures, because no agreement will be carried out, and no real cooperation will emerge without them.

Speaking on cooperation within the CIS, Askar Akayev pointed out Russia's leading role in it. "If Russia fails to remain a superpower, the whole Eurasian domain existing and being kept together due to Russia will be broken", he said.

Russian Ambassador To Promote Civil Peace

OW1407181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev has received credentials from the Russian Ambassador in Bishkek Mikhail Romanov.

In his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] the diplomat stressed that he will do everything to maintain and strengthen the historic economic and cultural relations. According to Romanov, the situation demands intensifying of cooperation and a trend towards integration prevails over any other trends. He reported that the Embassy will show special care of the Russians by birth. In particular, a service of labor and employment is supposed to be open and the issue on double citizenship is to be solved. The Ambassador emphasized that the Russian mission will not induce an organizational withdrawal of the Russians from Kyrgyzstan. The task of the Embassy is to promote international stability in the republic.

Akayav Discusses New Government Structure

OW1307224092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 13 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The republic's state secretary, Ednan Karabayev, in an interview to an Interfax correspondent said that the reorganization of the presidential and government structures actuated by Askar Akayev, who currently wears two hats - of the republic's head of government and head of the executive power, presupposes the dissolvement of the presidential power structure in favor of the government structure. The state secretary also indicated that most experts and employees of the presidential structure will be included in the reorganized government structure.

In the words of Ednan Karabayev, this reorganization is staged to harmonize the objectives set before Askar Akayev's team. "This reorganization is critically important for us to keep pace with the developments, so long as the government structure has become highly instrumental for realizing our priorities," he said, such as the program of radical economic reforms and preparation of a new constitution.

In Mr. Karabayev's opinion, the coming changes in the control structures have been motivated by unwarranted budgetary expenses. It was due to that reason, he went on, that the president had to make a decision to remove the research and expertise center from the president's power structure along with shutting down the managerial cadre course run by the government and a number of other "intermediate" control structures.

The state secretary singled out a number of measures for outlining the duties of the "ruling Cabinet". Particularly, the vice minister in charge of the economic reform will also be monitoring the economics and finance department, and other departments which have to do with economics, agriculture and food supply. The other deputy head of government will take care of the social and cultural spheres, the press, the state language, international problems, liaison with social unions and religious confessions.

Vice president Felix Kruglov continues to direct the offices relating to the sphere of legislation, defense ministry, and local administration. The functions of the press service have been significantly expanded, and a special group has been established to provide informational support both to the president and to the entire government, including an operative information analysis group, an editing group, and a press service division in Moscow.

Mr. Karabayev has noted that the adoption of the republic's new constitution, the draft of which defines the president as the only head of the government, is likely to produce further reorganization of the presidential services.

Akayev Says Republic To Remain in Ruble Zone

LD1507141592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek July 15 TASS—Kyrgyzstan is going to remain in the rouble zone, but might introduce a parallel currency to eliminate cash deficit, according to President Askar Akayev.

"We are not going to leave the rouble zone until the rouble is alive", Akayev stated here on Wednesday.

The Commonwealth of Independent States accounts for 98 per cent of all exports from the Central Asian Republic and for a similar percentage of Kyrgyz imports. All the shipments are paid in roubles.

Tajikistan

Nabiyev Comments on Human Rights Violations

LD1407150992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe July 14 TASS—Tajikistan President Rakhman Nabiyev said he does not regard as convincing the statements of some political leaders of the republic that human rights are violated in Tajikistan. Nevertheless, he welcomed the arrival in Tajikistan of independent observers from CSCE for the objective study of causes of political instability in separate regions in the republic. The president said this in a televised interview in the evening upon his return from the Helsinki meeting of heads of state and government of CSCE where the situation in the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan was discussed, among other matters.

Nabiyev said most participants in the meeting showed understanding for economic and political difficulties of the republic and expressed the hope that its leaders expressing adherence to the construction of a democratic secular state will be resolving all problems by peaceful civilised means. The president said that during his stay in Helsinki, arrangement was reached with leaders of a number of countries, including Switzerland and Bulgaria, on the arrival of a group of independent experts in Tajikistan to study the political and economic situation to establish versatile mutually-advantageous cooperation.

Regarding the latest events in Tajikistan, Nabiyev said the Tajik leadership had not yet exhausted its possibilities for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. He expressed disapproval of some political leaders and radical media for "rash, at times provocative pronouncements" which, in his opinion, lead to the further destabilisation and aggravation of interethnic conflicts.

Premier in Afghanistan To Discuss Arms Smuggling

OW1507120092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0929 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajik Premier Akbar Mirzoyev left for Kabul yesterday, Tuesday, at the head of an unofficial delegation to seek help from the Afghan government in stopping Mojahed field commanders from supplying Tajik citizens with arms.

A. Mirzoyev is expected to inform the Afghan leadership that in case of formal and voluntary return home by Tajiks who are now illegally staying in Afghanistan they need not fear criminal or any other persecution.

The delegation does not include, however, spokesmen of border- guards or the important Islamic Revival Party. That has led the Vice-Premier Davlat Usmon who is also deputy-chairman of that party, and the commander of the Central-Asian border-guard operational group Anatoliy Mortovitskiy to express doubts in an interview with INTERFAX that the Premier's mission can be effective.

Staff Member Details Future Military Doctrine

OW1407183092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Rakhman Nabiyev's staff is intensively working on the republic's military doctrine. Here are comments on it made by the Deputy Chairman of the Defense Committee of Tajikistan and a presidential expert, Colonel Tahir Safarov, in an interview with IF [INTERFAX].

Safarov defined Tajikistan's future military doctrine as an official system of views on the prevention of war and armed conflicts, on the development of the republic's military potential, on measures to provide for national defense on the basis of the CIS treaty on collective security, and on combat methods to be used in defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the republic.

According to Safarov, the doctrine does not set any aggressive aims and is solely aimed to ensure national defense, namely to provide favorable conditions for the country's development. The doctrine will consist of two aspects, a political and technical military ones.

The work on the draft includes planning the composition and structure of the armed forces with account being taken of Tajikistan's probable allies and enemies and its international commitments.

According to Safarov, creation of relevant legislation is the number-one priority. A set of laws have already been drafted, namely those on defense, conscription and national service, protection for servicemen, and alternative (nonmilitary) national service. The drafts are at present being examined by all ministries and agencies concerned.

The republic's leadership, Safarov stressed, would like the parliament to start considering the drafts as soon as possible, for, if passed, the legislation would solve many burning problems and would enable servicemen to make decisions on their future.

At the same time, Safarov admitted that the passing of these laws would not automatically mean that Tajikistan would immediately acquire first-rate armed forces. It would first be necessary to provide adequate economic and political conditions for the forming and maintenance of the forces, which would take some time. But "sooner or later they will become a reality."

The republic should also have its own defense ministry, Safarov emphasized. Its composition and structure have already been devised by the Defense Committee. The ministry is to consist of several departments, including a general staff, an operations management, and departments dealing with problems of the rear, armaments, pre-national service military training, higher educational establishments, civil defense, and conscription.

Turkmenistan

Cabinet Discusses Creating National Guard, Army

OW1407185892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tuesday [14 July] the session of the republican Cabinet of Ministers chaired by President Saparmurad Niyazov reconfirmed Turkmenia's intention to create its own armed forces. It was also decided to create national guard totalling 1,000 people at the beginning. The presidential press service told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the session did not discuss the status of the future armed formations. Nevertheless "IF" has learned that a singing of a decree on transformation of the Ministry on defense affairs into the Defense Ministry is expected by the end of this day. Danatar Kopekov is supposed to retain the functions of the Minister of Defense.

Considering the organizational issues, the Cabinet of Ministers resolved to appoint the heads of the republican provincial administrations as Niyazov's deputies in the government. The Ministry of Labor and Staff Training is now in charge for the system of professional-technical education. The Ministry of Public Education is expected to be rearranged.

Niyazov Makes Statement on Secular Policy

OW1307224692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 13 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The republican press carried a statement of President Niyazov at a CSCE meeting in Helsinki on July 10.

"A state that gained independence recently, Turkmenistan is building its power structure on the basis of the supremacy of the constitution, respect for law, commitment to democratic values and human rights. We act on the assumption that the model of a rule-of-law democratic state is based on providing for a safe life for people, freedom of conviction and word for every citizen. In this connection I would like to emphasize that human rights can be a slogan of a public movement, as has been frequently seen in recent times. But for us, human rights are inextricably linked with national interests and are its essential component.

Turkmenistan states quite responsibly that it will honestly and openly cooperate with all countries seeking the lofty goals facing the world community.

We have stated time and again, and we want to say once more that Turkmenistan does not plan to base its policies on ideological or religious factors. Our policies will be built on commonsense, safeguarding of popular interests, and providing stability. Turkmenistan is a rule-of-law, democratic state that has made the ideals of peace and humanism the core of its foreign political doctrine.

In conformity with this, a national model for Turkmenistan's economic development was worked out, with a body of measures to provide social and legal protection for the population.

Having gotten involved into an integration into the world market, we plan to use all instruments for the Turkmen economy to grow into the system of world economic ties. Our economic program is based on private property, entrepreneurship and foreign investment."

Armenia

President Comments on Relations With Russia

LD1407184992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1753 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ARMENPRESS-TASS]

[Text] Yerevan July 14 TASS—"From the very first days of independence the republic pursued a policy of establishing normal and friendly relations with all states, first of all with republics of the former Soviet Union," President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan told journalists. "We invariably consider as vital our relations with the Russian Federation which are based on mutual respect and recognition of our states' sovereignty," he said. "In this direction our countries achieved definite success through joint efforts, a number of agreements and treaties on bilateral, as well as multilateral basis have been signed and problems of our interrelations in different spheres, including military as well, either have been resolved or are being resolved," Ter-Petrosyan said.

According to the Armenian president, such a tendency "answers vital interests of the people of Russia and Armenia and evokes understanding and support from almost all strata of the population of the two countries." Nonetheless, the president said that "there exist forces in Armenia, as well as in Russia and beyond their borders, whose intentions and plans are not in line with such development of events and which systematically attempt to undermine the normal process of the establishment of interstate relations, cause mutual distrust and sow discord between our people."

Efforts To 'Wreck' Ties Noted

LD1507113592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0948 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 15 Jul—In the opinion of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, there are forces both within Russia and Armenia and outside their boundaries whose intentions and plans do not correspond to a favorable development of relations between the two states. These forces are systematically attempting to wreck the normal process of development of interstate relations, provoke a mutual lack of trust and sow enmity between the peoples of Armenia and Russia. This is set out in a statement for the press by the republic's leader, published here today, in connection with the recent incident in Gyumri [formerly Leninakan] which led to casualties among servicemen in the Russian Army.

The president thinks that these forces, to achieve their aims, "are using both lies and disinformation and do not stop at any type of provocation, including people's deaths." The statement continues: "They often use, like parasites, the difficulties that occur naturally in periods of transition, to exploit the imperfection of the structures and mechanisms created, gamble on the inexperience of some officials, and provoke inappropriate actions by one side to steps by the other that are not always well thought-out and well grounded."

We cannot permit, Ter-Petrosyan continued, the irresponsible and provocative actions by certain forces or individuals—whatever interests they might represent—to destabilize the situation in Armenia, to reduce to nothing all of the positive potential accumulated as a result of painstaking work, to sow dissent between the peoples of Armenia and Russia, or to create a threat to the security of the region as a whole, which is fragile in any case. According to the president, the investigation has yet to illucidate all of the circumstances surrounding the incident, and the guilty parties will be given the punishment they deserve "irrespective of office, rank, merit, or citizenship."

Having expressed his sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who were injured or died as a result of the Gyumri incident, the Armenian president stressed the necessity for drawing conclusions to prevent such incidents in the future. We need to do all we can "to strengthen the atmosphere of tolerance and goodwill in the republic, of trust and mutual respect between our peoples and their representatives serving in the interests of both our peoples," Ter-Petrosyan stated.

Issues Statement on Gyumri Incident

LD1407173492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] According to the SNARK news Agency, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan issued a statement today concerning the incident in Gyumri on 12 July in which five Russian servicemen died. The president expressed his condolences to the relatives and friends of those who died and gave assurances that the guilty parties will be punished.

We cannot, says the statement, allow irresponsible and provocative forces or individuals, whoever's interests they represent, to destabilize the situation in the republic or to drive a wedge between peoples. Armenia has always sought to preserve good relations with all countries and especially with the republics of the former USSR and Russia, said Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

Official: Russian Statement on Gyumri 'Strange'

OW1407131792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1052 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian president's press-secretary Ruben Shugaryan has described as "strange and unclear" the statement made by Russia's government on the incident between Russian servicemen and Armenian law and order forces in Gyumri, July 10. In an armed clash in

that West-Armenian city 5 soldiers, 3 Armenian policemen, and as many by-passers were killed and more wounded.

R. Shugaryan pointed out that a statement like the one made by the Russian Government July 12 "actually anticipated the results of an investigation".

The Russian Army's version is that Armenian "commandoes" attacked a convoy of army trucks to seize weapons. Two vehicles were burned. Yerevan's version goes that the convoy was trying to take out of Kumairi an important military cargo without producing any authorization at the city customs post. When challenged, they just tried to drive away, and then in the centre of the city they opened fire without warning on police cars in pursuit. The fire was returned.

Russians To Join Team Investigating Gyumri Clash

OW1407164592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian Deputy Prosecutor Mikhail Grigoryan said that preliminary results of the investigation of the incident in Gyumri (former Leninakan) involving Russian servicemen would be released in a week.

That armed clash in Gyumri on July 10 left 5 Russian servicemen, 3 Armenian police officers, and 3 civilians dead, and several wounded.

Mikhail Grigoryan said a special investigative group including Armenian Interior Ministry and Prosecutor's office officials had begun to work. Representatives of the Russian army are also involved in the investigation. Mikhail Grigoryan said Russian investigators would join them in the near future.

Further on Preparations for Talks With Russia

LD1407171492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 14 TASS—An Armenian official delegation, headed by Armenian State Minister Grigory Areshyan for holding talks with the Russian Federation was formed on orders of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the Government's press service announced today saying that the delegation will work on a permanent basis.

The delegation will include representatives of parliament, the Government and the Foreign Ministry of Armenia.

Armenia and Russia have already determined those problems they must resolve on a bilateral basis under the CIS countries' agreements. The delegations will hold talks on questions of political, social and humanitarian character and other problems of mutual interests, the minister said. Joint plenary sessions of the delegations will be held not less than three times a year, but during the rest of the period working groups will function with the participation of members of the delegations as well as experts.

Arashyan added that the first meeting of the Armenian and Russian delgations will be held either in the late July or in the early August 1992, it depends on how soon the documents to be committed will be prepared.

The Armenian state minister also informed that the preliminary results of the investigation of the recent Gyumri incident will be received in a few days. As is known the incident led to deaths among the Russian Army men.

It is necessary to work out during the talks documents to exclude such sorrowful incidents in the future, Arashyan said.

Yerevan Updates Nagorno-Karabakh Clashes

NC1407192392 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Armenia's border rayons:

The recent incidents in the NKR have again indicated that the Azerbaijani side does not wish to heed any appeal for a cease-fire agreement. Armenia has (?complied with the) appeal to the two sides to observe a cease-fire agreement by the chairman of the conference to be held in Minsk, Mario Raffaelli. But the self-defense forces in the NKR [words indistinct].

Observing a cease-fire has not been possible because Azerbaijan National Army units attacked Armenian residential areas and fired on them with various types of arms.

As we reported earlier, Azerbaijani units bombarded Armenian residential areas with tanks, aircraft, and artillery guns on the night of 11 July. The Armenian freedom fighters retaliated and silenced the enemy firing positions. They even liberated the towns of [name indistinct], (Yaniyatan), Gulyatagi, [name indistinct], and (Meze) in Mardakertskiy Rayon on 11 and 12 July. The Azerbaijani units suffered casualties and lost some of their military hardware. The enemy lost 30 men, dozens of enemy troops were wounded, and three T-72 tanks and an armored vehicle were hit.

The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center has claimed that the Armenian side moved to consolidate its superiority after Azerbaijan complied with the cease-fire agreement. That is untrue. According to the NKR NEWS AGENCY, the Armenian units only attempted retaliatory operations to remove the enemy firing positions.

Azerbaijani units attacked the town of (Banabardak) in Askeranskiy Rayon on the night of 12 July, but Armenian self-defense forces repulsed the attack. The usurping units lost 12 men in the clashes and a member of the Armenian self-defense units was wounded.

The [name indistinct] area was liberated today. The Armenians captured eight enemy tanks and a Grad missile launcher. The Azerbaijan National Army lost many men in this area.

Enemy units were seen moving in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the night of 11 July and early on 12 July. Meanwhile, the situation in Gadrutskiy, Martuninskiy, and Askeranskiy Rayons was relatively calm. The enemy has massed a large force of armed units in the southern part of Martuninskiy Rayon and similar forces in the other rayons in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The situation on Armenia's border with Azerbaijan remains tense. The enemy side has been firing on Armenian residential areas and workers in fields with various types of arms, disrupting agricultural work in Armenia. Naturally, the Armenian side has returned fire. [passage indistinct]

Appeals by the officials of several Armenian rayons to the neighboring republic to hold talks to end the exchange of fire have not yielded any result. Two agreements have been reached between the officials of the executive authorities of Armenia's Krasnoselskiy and Azerbaijan's Kadabekskiy Rayons to hold talks on [words indistinct]. It is difficult to predict the outcome of their talks.

The border towns in Krasnoselskiy and Tavushskiy Rayons were fired on with various types of arms, machines guns, and [word indistinct] on 12 July. [passage indistinct]

The town of [name indistinct] in Gorisskiy Rayon was fired on from 1700 to 2000 yesterday and a house destroyed. No one was killed or wounded. The towns of Artsvashen and [name indistinct] in the rayon were also fired on yesterday and (Baregadanban) and (Chava Shavan) last night. Enemy troops and military hardware are reported to be massing in [name indistinct] Rayon. [passage indistinct]

Azerbaijan

Official on Elchibey's Meetings With Bush, Yeltsin

OW1407174392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 14 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey's press secretary, Niyazi Ibragimov, has told journalists today that Azerbaijan regards the Helsinki meeting as an official recognition that the Cold War has ended. "Azerbaijan sees the CSCE," he said, "as an organization which today efficiently controls processes taking place on the continent of Eurasia by pooling the efforts of various states."

According to Ibragimov, the Azeri government is satisfied with Elchibey's meetings with U.S. President George Bush in Helsinki. The republic's leadership, Ibragimov said, is very well informed about the position of the United States on Azerbaijan and on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in particular. The Americans "expressed readiness to cooperate with Azerbaijan in handling the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and to help the republic solve its economic problems."

Speaking about Elchibey's meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Finnish capital, Ibragimov pointed out Yeltsin's statement that "all difficulties in relations between Azerbaijan and Russia will be overcome."

Ibragimov said that, if necessary, the CSCE might send in NATO and EC forces to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Azerbaijan believes that they should be stationed along the Azeri-Armenian border in order to act as a buffer between the two belligerents. But he emphasized that, Azerbaijan being an independent state, such forces could not be brought into it without consent on the part of its government.

Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Updated

LD1507004392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Azer Khalilov, our Baku correspondent, gives an account of the situation in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

[Khalilov] The press center of the Ministry of Defense of the Azerbaijan Republic reports that on 14 July the tense situation in the areas bordering on the frontier with Armenia, as well as in the Nagorno part of Karabakh, did not lessen. According to a report from the analytical and information center of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenian armed forces deployed in the Askeran direction submitted the villages of Agdamskiy, Terterskiy, Agderinskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons to missile bombardment in the afternoon of 14 July. Agdamskiy Rayon suffered most. There is a great deal of destruction of housing as well as 50 wounded civilians.

The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry reports that throughout the day of 14 July the territory of the Nakhichevan Republic was subjected to concentrated shelling from the territory of the Kafanskiy and Megrinskiy Rayons of Armenia. Here the Sadarakskiy and Sharurskiy Rayons suffered most. According to a report from the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, there are dead among the civilians as well. At the same time, the

Defense Ministry reports that the national self-defense forces of Azerbaijan are continuing to confidently hold the positions occupied by them.

At 1800 hours on 14 July the Armenian Armed Forces subjected the positions of the Azerbaijani national self-defense forces deployed in the Agderinskiy Rayon of the Nagorno part of Karabakh to an air attack. After a worthy rebuff, however, the Armenian troops were forced to return to their positions.

Policy To Reclaim Land From Armenians Viewed

TA1407170092 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Azerbaijan has stated that it has no territorial claims other than recapturing territory occupied by the Armenians and that this policy is acceptable to the international community. That view was expressed by Niyazi Ibragimov, head of the Azerbaijani president's press service, and Vefa Kulizade, under secretary of international affairs, at a news conference in Baku.

Ibragimov and Kulizade stated that Azerbaijan, as a state that favors peace and democracy, has declared a cease-fire in Karabakh, but that the Armenians have continued their aggressive attitude. Noting that Armenia is trying to gain territory through the use of armed force, Ibragimov and Kulizade added that that attitude is unacceptable to the international community and that the Armenians have been defeated on the international platform. Pointing out that Azerbaijan has recently been pursuing an active foreign policy, Ibragimov and Kulizade said Turkey is a guiding force for the other Turkic republics that have gained their independence.

Meanwhile, the clashes between the Azerbaijani forces and the Armenian gangs continued today in Karabakh and along the border. As a result of the Armenian artillery fire on the villages of (Sefiyan) and (Verecan) in Lachin, three Azerbaijani Turks were killed. It is reported that there were many Armenian casualties in the counterattack launched by the Azerbaijani National Army. It is reported that fighting is continuing in the Kelbadzhar, Kazakh, Zangelan, Tauz, and Agdam regions and that the situation is calm in Dzhebrail, Fizuli, Kubatli and Gedebey.

Ministry Accuses Russian Army of 'Provocations'

LD1407144592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Dilyara Efendiyeva-TASS]

[Text] Baku July 13 TASS—Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense announced on Monday [13 July] that it takes all former Soviet military depots under its protection and accused the (Russian) Trans-Caucasian Military Command of armed provocations against Azeris.

According to the statement, a Russian officer arrived by a helicopter between three and five P.M. on Monday to one of the Trans-Caucasian military command's depots, confiscated all warehouse documents and left by the helicopter. He then fired at the depots from the helicopter setting one of the buildings ablaze. Soldiers guarding the warehouses had to fight fire for six hours and managed to prevent explosions in central warehouses. The Ministry demanded Russian officials to launch an investigation into the incident.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Regional Issues, Elections

NC1507105892 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 6 Jul 92 pp 1, 17

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council, by Sinan Gokcen in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gokcen] How would you describe yourself politically?

[Shevardnadze] It is not necessary for a person like me, who has undergone radical changes in his political outlook and is participating in the establishment of a totally new democratic society, to talk about political views. I lead a democratic movement, after abandoning the totalitarian regime.

[Gokcen] What do you think of Turkey's policy on the Caucasus and Central Asia?

[Shevardnadze] During my meeting with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel in Istanbul, I told him my impressions of Turkey's growing importance in the Caucasus, Europe, and the world. I am certain beyond any doubt that Turkey will channel its considerable energy toward cooperation and peace. For this reason, at the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [BSEC] summit meeting, I proposed that a secretariat be established with its headquarters in Istanbul.

[Gokcen] Do you see "a danger of pan-Turkism" in the region?

[Shevardnadze] As I said, there will be no danger of pan-Turkism if Turkey channels its energy toward cooperation and peace and pursues this policy consistently. I do not see any likelihood of a change in Turkish policy.

[Gokcen] Were you asked to mediate between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Shevardnadze] I received no such request. During my Istanbul meetings I expressed my conviction that Turkey and Georgia should cooperate to ensure stability in the Caucasus.

[Gokcen] Are you thinking of mediating between Armenia and Azerbaijan to secure peace in the Caucasus?

[Shevardnadze] Georgia is not under any obligation to mediate in this conflict. Georgia will, however, do everything possible to find a solution to this problem. This should be done as part of the natural flow of events.

[Gokcen] Do you think the Caucasus will ever attain peace?

[Shevardnadze] Of course, it is inevitable. The BSEC members should not limit their relations to economic cooperation. These countries have enormous potential to overcome any problem.

[Gokcen] What plans do you have to end the instability in Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] This question requires a very long reply. We have many problems, including a personnel shortage. As you know, there was a coup attempt last week. We could not capture most of the plotters; they are still in the city. Patience is required.

[Gokcen] Will a political solution be found to the South Ossetia problem?

[Shevardnadze] Of course, this problem will be solved, but only gradually. First, a cease-fire was achieved. Following the talks, Tskhinvali was declared a "peace zone." Now, those who fled their homes for other regions will be helped to return. The problem has moved into a solution phase.

[Gokcen] The Ahiska Turks in Georgia were deported to other republics in the aftermath of World War II. They are now waiting near Sochi on the Russian-Georgian border to return to Georgia. Would you allow them to return to their homes?

[Shevardnadze] In principle, yes, but there is ongoing instability, and for this reason, no urgent practical measures are being taken. We are aware of the problem and will solve it in time.

[Gokcen] Will you run in the elections scheduled for October?

[Shevardnadze] I have not yet decided, but I have time to consider it.

Peacekeeping Force 'Far From Ideal'

OW1507134492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze finds that the introduction of a tri-partite peace-making force in the Tskhinvali region is "a far from ideal measure needed to end the confrontation in the area". At Tuesday's meeting of the Georgian State Council he said, "it would be good to rely in this case on the UN peace-keeping forces, but that's impossible now".

He announced that Georgia will shortly open two customs offices on the border with North Ossetia.

Republic's Forces Withdrawn From Conflict

LD1407202192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1833 GMT 14 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Tskhinvali (South Ossetia), 14 Jul—All the Georgian armed formations that took part in the conflict in South Ossetia have been withdrawn from the area of confrontation, Nikolay Buyanov, member of the quadripartite observers' commission, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

As reported earlier, the Russian and Georgian subunits of peacekeeping forces have arrived in the region. Their main task is to guarantee the cease-fire, disengage the sides involved, maintain the people's safety, and give the refugees the opportunity to return to their land.

A state of emergency is being established in South Ossetia, and all power will be in the hands of the joint control commission that includes representatives from Russia, Georgia, and North and South Ossetia.

At a news conference held today, it was reported that an Ossetian battalion will enter Tskhinvali at 1700 tomorrow, and the quadripartite group of observers will start its work. Oleg Teziyev, chairman of the South Ossetian Council of Ministers, said the people perceive the peacekeeping forces as being the Ossetian people's last hope for peace. The sides confirmed their determination to neutralize those who try to violate the cease-fire agreement. Firing positions will be silenced. In addition, two special reaction groups will be attached to the joint control commission to prevent the formation of gangs. They will be granted the right to act outside the zone of conflict.

Noting the arrival times of the peacekeeping forces in the region, Sergey Khetagurov, chairman of the North Ossetian Council of Ministers, said that they must remain here until the question of the political status of South Ossetia is resolved.

Tengiz Kitovani, member of the State Council and defense minister, said that the proposal of the Georgian side to reduce the strength of the subunits of the peacekeeping forces was prompted only by economic difficulties in Georgia.

Peacekeeping Forces Deployed

LD1507063692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0626 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 15 TASS—Not a single shot was fired in South Ossetia overnight after the Russian and

Georgian peace-keeping battalions entered a 15-kilometre long security corridor separating the conflicting sides, the North Ossetian Security Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Ossetian battalion of the 1,500-men strong peace-keeping force arrived to Roksk Ridge on the border between South Ossetia and Georgia on Wednesday and is going to proceed to its positions near the settlements of Khetagurovo and Znaur later in the day.

The command of the peace-keeping force is situated on the territory of withdrawn Russian helicopter wing near Tskhinvali, according to the South Ossetian parliament.

The lifting of economic, transport and energy blockade of Tskhinvali was initiated on Wednesday. 80 per cent of the living quarters of the city, the major objects of infrastructure and the railway station were either completely destroyed or damaged during recent shellings.

'Combat Readiness' Needed in S. Ossetia

PM1507084192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Petrov and Vitaliy Strugovets under the general heading: "Peacemaking Forces in South Ossetia: No Mercy for Bandit Formations"]

[Text] Large-scale preparatory work preceded the introduction of peacemaking forces in South Ossetia. An address from the mixed control commission to all "armed men" was disseminated using leaflets and loudspeakers. The memo contains a demand that all armed formations immediately halt their resistance and lay down their arms.

The peacemaking forces will try to fulfill these conditions using all means at their disposal. This power is inherent in the status of the peacemaking forces. It is incumbent upon them to return fire when fired upon and "to pursue bandit formations even beyond the conflict zone boundaries until they are completely destroyed."

Officers of the Russian airborne regiment speak of the need to maintain vigilance and combat readiness. This is not a sign of excessive caution. The point here is that there are well-armed bandit units, which are under nobody's jurisdiction, in the conflict zone. It cannot be ruled out that they will try to disrupt the sides' peacemaking efforts. Arms could be used against subunits of the tripartite forces for this purpose.

An address to the local population and organs of power has also been disseminated in the region, requesting comprehensive support and assistance for the peacemaking forces.

Incidentally

According to our special correspondents' latest reports from the conflict region, the Russian airborne regiment with which they are traveling moved out of Vladikavkaz along the Transcaucasus Highway in the direction of Georgia early in the morning of 14 July. The entire highway, up to the 4-kilometer long tunnel at Rokskiy Pass where South Ossetia begins, is monitored by military teams around the clock. These measures have been taken to prevent possible sabotage and provocations.

General Gennadiy Filatov, commander of the Russian detachment of buffer forces, told journalists that the troops will have to traverse the second part of the route, from the tunnel's south entrance to Tskhinvali, right in the middle of the warring sides.

Answering an RIA correspondent's question on whether force would be used if anyone tries to use force to halt the movement of peacemaking subunits, Gennadiy Filatov replied: "We have been assigned the task to reach Tskhinvali and separate the warring sides. We will accomplish our task."

Abkhaz Official Responds to Militia's Demands

AU1407162392 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 9 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by Tengiz Pachkoriya: "Aleksandr Ankvab on the Demands of the Striking Militia"]

[Text] On the evening of 7 July, Militia Colonel Aleksandr Ankvab was interviewed on Abkhaz television. He analyzed the criminal situation in Abkhazia and pointed out that while the level of crime had risen several times during the last few months, only 30-40 percent of criminal actions were being detected. In this regard, Ankvab stated that during the last few months, some militia workers were becoming involved in political activities and, considering the developing situation, it was essential that they get out of politics.

Aleksandr Ankvab also mentioned the demands of the striking workers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] of the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. He said their demands had some justification. Touching upon the demand of the striking militia that legal action be taken against the organizers and perpetrators of the attack on the Abkhaz MVD building, Ankvab said that criminal proceedings had been initiated and an investigation was under way. Later on, the discussion centered on the strikers' demand that illegal military formations vacate the MVD building. It was stated that soldiers of the regiment could be taken out of the MVD building. Aleksandr Ankvab also pointed out that all the formations of the Abkhaz internal troops would be subordinate to the Abkhaz MVD and the question of the appointment of the Abkhaz minister of internal affairs, in his opinion, "should be resolved on a political level."

In conclusion, Ankvab called upon militia employees to get on with fulfilling their official duties, stating that "the militia is not an organization that can go on strike."

Prosecutor Denies Kavsadze With Gamsakhurdia

OW1407193992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian General Prosecutor Vakhtang Razmadze refuted messages stating that the captured Vice Premier Aleksander Kavsadze has been already delivered to Groznyy to the former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Tuesday at the session of the Georgian State Council the Prosecutor informed on the results of the searching operation of Kavsadze.

According to Razmadze, the ex-president's supporters are hiding the hostage in Lugela Gorge of Tsalendzhikhski region.

Meanwhile the Chairman of the State Council Eduard Shevardnadze explained that the Georgian Vice Premier left for the Western Georgia where he was captured not on his initiative as it was mentioned until now but on the order of a single member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet who was staying in Tbilisi on that day, the first deputy Prime Minister, Georgian Minister of Defense Tengiz Kitovani. Kavsadze was to examine the issue on the possibility of withdrawal from Western Georgia of the national guard "Mkhedrioni" 's units which "did not have good relations with the local population".

Associate Urges Gamsakhurdia To Resign

PM1407131992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Tengiz Pachkoriya under "Hot Spots" rubric: "One of Gamsakhurdia's Closest Associates Appeals for End to Struggle"]

[Text] As is well known, former Deputy Valter Shurgaya was arrested 24 June in Tbilisi. After Gamsakhurdia was overthrown, he left Georgia together with Gamsakhurdia and returned in January on the instructions of the ex-president to head the Committee of National Disobedience. On Sunday 12 July, Shurgaya was given the chance to speak on Georgian television. He appealed to Gamsakhurdia's supporters to discontinue their armed opposition to the present authorities. He said that this struggle is crazy and pointless and that it is impossible to attain their goals by armed means. It would be best, Shurgaya stressed, if Gamsakhurdia himself were to tender his resignation and step down from the post of president. He suggested that Gamsakhurdia should take part in the next election to the Georgian Supreme Council. He also admitted that he had had disagreements with Gamsakhurdia in recent months. Shurgaya stated that the events of 24 June in Tbilisi showed that the people do not support opposition to the authorities.

Many people were surprised by Shurgaya's speech. It cannot be ruled out that Gamsakhurdia's supporters will label him a traitor in light of what he ded, although some people think that this confession was forced, as a result of his sojourn in prison.

Polls Show Support for Radical Economic Reform

LD1507095192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] It is 100 days since power in Georgia went over to the State Council headed by Eduard Shevardnadze. Observers point out that the new leadership inherited a ruined economy from the deposed President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Inflation is mounting, the financial crisis is worsening, and the growth of prices is assuming threatening proportions. However, as public opinion polls show, there is an understanding in society that survival lies through radical reforms and transition to a market [as heard]. The efforts of the democratic government officials to stabilize the economy are hampered, however, by the actions of the armed supporters of the ex-president.

Estonia

Debate Over Control of Armed Forces Cited

LD1507124292 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1030 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent Reinhard Krause from Riga]

[Text] On four occasions recently, members of the new Estonian militia have attacked Russian soldiers and military installations. There has been some shooting and Russian soldiers have been taken prisoner. The Russians have freed their comrades-in-arms by force, but no one has been injured in these confrontations.

Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi has apologized to the Russian military for these incidents. Along with President Arnold Ruutel, he has also appealed to the population to be calm, warning people that actions of this kind can create an extremely tense and dangerous situation.

The political leadership of Estonia is greatly irritated over what it perceives as poor discipline in the militia. A regional militia chief has been dismissed because of the skirmishes with the Russians. Estonian Defense Minister Ulo Uluots is now saying, however, that all these incidents are due to the fact that the military and the militia are not controlled by any politicial bodies. The Estonian Supreme Council has refused to approve laws giving the Ministry of Defense control over the Armed Forces. The defense minister himself maintains that no one now knows exactly who is in command, and the head of the Estonian Defense Staff agrees with this view. The ministry's tasks are just now being limited, following the latest Supreme Council decisions, to managing the finances of the military establishment.

General Views Attacks on Russian Servicemen

LD1407182092 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1728 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Acting Commander of the North-Western Group of Troops [NGWT] on the Kaitselliit Group attacking Russian Servicemen: If this goes on, no one can be guaranteed against casualties.

On July 10 near the village of Risti on the Haapsalu-Tallinn highway, the Kaitseliita Group shelled three vehicles belonging to the Russian Army taking three officers prisoner later released by a task force of the Russian anti-aircraft troops.

Commenting to PF [POSTFACTUM] on the incident, Acting Commander of the Riga-based North-Western Group of Troops, Lieutenant-General Fedor Melnichuk also said: Long before the armed incident in Estonia, the NWGT command sent to the Baltic heads of state a statement reporting that the commanders and chiefs of units and detachments of the Russian troops had been instructed to strictly observe the requirements of the Russian Government resolution N407 of June 20 on measures for stopping unlawful actions against the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation giving the Russian servicemen the right to take adequate measures against attacks on them and their families including resorting to retaliatory fire. We asked the leaders of the Baltic republics to acquaint all the MPs [members of parliament] and Government members as well as administrative organs and armed units subordinated to them with the Russian Government's resolution as well as taking measures against anti-Army units. In Estonia, this statement was not, mildly speaking, taken quite seriously. Happily, this time there were no casualties.

According to military experts, on July 10, the Kaitseliit commandos also opened fire at the task force of the Russian anti-aircraft troops who came to rescue their comrades. After the task force retaliated, the commandos began retreating.

Commenting on the situation, military sources insist that in the given case use force could have definitely been avoided should the leadership of the Estonian republic have timely reacted to the Russian servicemen's report about the taking of hostages. The Estonian Government, however, having received the report of the anti-aircraft troops headquarters about the incident, said the Kaiseliit Group acting in the Hari district was ignoring the authorities' resolutions. Later Prime Minister Tiit Vahi apologized to the military for the Risti incident.

According to military experts, a number of developments in the past two months lead to the conclusion that attacks of the kind are not unexpected to the local authorities and that in this situation one cannot confine oneself to a mere statement of facts. Besides, according to the same sources, Kaitseliit having become part of the Estonian state structures six months ago, stopped being a purely public organization and became subordinated to the defence minister and the main headquarters of the Estonian Defence Forces.

At present, many actions in the Baltic states, military experts argue, are conducted under the slogans of ousting invaders put forward, in the first place, by prominent Baltic politicians. According to the information PF received from informed sources, after the storming of the Russian navy base in the town of Paldiskiy having the nuclear reactors of the Navy Training Center made by the Green Movement on May 18, Chairman of the Estonian Parliament Arnold Ruutel, addressing Parliament, described the incident not as a provocation with the participation of the official authorities representatives but as a manifestation of the people's will resentful at the foreign troops continuing to stay in Estonia.

On May 20, an appeal of the Hari Kaitseliita Corps was adopted where they swore to fight till the last drop of their blood has been shed while Russian invading troops remain on the territory of the republic. For them, the Second World War was not over yet, the authors of the appeal claimed, and they promised to continue the resistance that failed to be completed in the 50s. The

Estonian authorities have also failed to respond to this document, military experts stressed.

According to the military, the Tartu Kaitseliit Corps, second in importance in Estonia, was the first to support the Hari-Halevites. A few days earlier, on June 18, the Tartu Kaitseliit plundered a train car containing the munitions of the Baltic fleet despite the fact that the fleet command had got the Estonian authorities' permission to ship the munitions to Russia. In early July, Russia's Foreign Ministry sent to the Estonian embassy in Moscow a note of protest on this score but the munitions have not been returned yet. There has been no reaction to the commandos raids from the prosecutor's office and police either. According to the military, the incident on the Haapsalu-Tallinn highway showed that the actions of the Hari Kaitseliit are ever closer approaching the dangerous point where it will become impossible to avoid casualties.

On May 24, according to the same sources, at the instruction of Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, the Estonian border guards occupied the cantonment of the dismantled anti-aircraft regiment in the town of Valga at the time when talks were being held on the regiment's cantonment to be handed over to the local authorities. During the incident a few unarmed Russian soldiers were brutally beaten. After the capture of the cantonment, a soldier of the Estonian Army who was drunk and carrying a submachine-gun, at the railway station, broke into the St. Petersburg-Riga train and having forced open the door of a compartment began threatening the passengers with his gun. Then he engaged in a skirmish with his comrades who tried to stop him and was shot by them.

According to some military experts, the impression is that Russia is closing its eyes to the fact that its soldiers begin to ever more often feel cornered in the Baltics. Russian politicians, they argued, have far more workable instruments at their disposal compared with the right of servicemen to defend themselves and their families. Any self-respecting state, after incidents like the armed attack by Kaitsellita, would immediately interrupt the talks with Estonia without resuming them until the culprits have been punished and the Estonian leadership has officially apologized, PF was told by military experts.

The military-patriotic organization Kaitseliit (The Union of Defence) existed in pre-war Estonia as people's voluntary corps, was restored in 1990, is included in the defence forces of the Estonian republic and is politically orientated to the committee of Estonia's citizens.

Official Reprimanded for Separation Referendum

OW1407144992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1323 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference this Monday [13 July], Vladimir Churkin, chairman of the Narva Town Council, said that he had been summoned to the Estonian Presidium of the Supreme Council where he was reprimanded for his unconstitutional demeanor as regards organization of a referendum on Narva's separation from Estonia.

He emphasized that the Narva Town Council is not seeking the town's separation from Estonia. In the meantime, "if the problems of the town remain unresolved," he said, the Narva town authorities would not be able to "control the feelings" of the town's residents.

In an interview to BALTFAX, Mr Churkin confirmed that the Narva town authorities do not regard separation as the optimum outcome. "Even if most of the town's residents are content with such a solution, the minority would still object, and we have to count with them", he said.

Raul Malk, a spokesman for the press service of the Presidium of the republic's Supreme Council, told BALTFAX that should the referendum challenges the republic's territorial integrity, the government would "resort to all possible measures".

Latvia

Navy, Baltic Fleet Agree on Customs Policy

PM1507112392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 3

[Captain Second Rank V. Gromak report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "The Baltic Fleet and the Latvian Naval Forces Have Signed an Agreement"]

[Text] Liepaja—Talks have been held in Liepaja between Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral V. Yegorov and Captain First Rank G. Zeibots, chief of the Latvian naval forces. They resulted in the signing of an agreement on questions of the entry, exit, and customs control of Russian military ships and auxiliary vessels at Latvian Republic ports.

At the moment, for example, in order to call at Riga or Liepaja, a Russian military or auxiliary ship must apply to the Foreign Ministry. The request must be made 30 days in advance.

A practical solution has also been found to the question of the customs inspection of ships. Auxiliary ships from the Russian Federation and all freight being shipped across the Latvian border are subject to customs and border control. Military ships are not subject to customs inspection if they are transporting weapons and ammunition, but they must present documents from the ship's office to customs inspectors.

Equal Rights Deputies Stripped of Mandate

PM1407175592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Irina Litvinovat: "'Purge' in Latvian Parliament"]

[Text] Riga—"The annulling of the deputies' mandates of the 'Equal Rights' faction will have a significant influence on Supreme Council decisionmaking, because it was these very deputies who helped parliament to adopt less radical versions of decisions," Maris Budovskis, chairman of the Latvian parliament Credentials Commission and member of the "Satversme" radical faction, said at a news conference.

Latvian media are continuing to comment on the "purge" in parliament whereby the majority voted to annull the mandates of 15 of their colleagues (one who repented was spared). The "Affair of the 15" is provoking the most varied reactions. For example, Andris Ligotnis, leader of the parliamentary investigation commission (its conclusions were the basis for the decision), considers that the facts that were presented are sufficient to free parliament from those who got in the way of independence: "Every day voters asked how long we were going to tolerate a situation where deputies sitting in our parliament but not representing citizens of our state could mock our state." This opinion of the investigation commission's chairman appeared in the official newspaper DIENA. At the news conference at which Maris Budovskis and Andris Ligotnis explained parliament's decision, they categorically rejected the accusation that this was a political reprisal against the opposition.

Members of the "Equal Rights" faction presented a different view at a meeting with journalists. They noted that the work of the investigation commission in parliament did not stand up to criticism from either a legal or a moral point of view. People are blaming the opposition for holding different ideas and having a different understanding of what is good and bad for the Latvian state. The extrajudicial reprisal against the parliamentarians is directly analogous to the McCarthy commission's work at the time of the "witch hunts" in the United States. In the opposition's opinion, they are settling scores with it, primarily for the role it is playing in bringing to international notice hidden cases of infringements of the rights of national minorities in Latvia. The security service, specially empowered by order of Latvian Parliament Deputy Chairman A. Krastins, has confiscated the passes of faction leader Deputy Sergey Dimanis, as well as his colleagues. These actions have provoked a negative reaction among journalists. I was able to obtain a comment from Dimanis:

"There is something politically absurd in the very fact that one group of deputies is resolving the fate of the mandates of another group of deputies. Such things are rarely seen in parliamentary practice.

"This whole venture is structured in the form of a political trial where, on the basis of unlawful details and a criminal investigation which has reached an impasse, intrigues against the opposition are in essence being hatched and the radicals are not hiding the fact that they have 'won'—they now have a free hand. But it is the centrists' fate I am thinking about: Won't this action become a precedent for continuing to get rid of undesirable elements in parliament in the future by using an automatic majority?"

Forest Fires Not Controlled; Danger High

LD1407164992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Regarding the situation in the forests: Although there has been some rainfall, the danger of forest fires remains. The situation in the Latvian forests is still uncertain. The Adazi military base in Seja District was not affected by the thunderstorm; therefore, it was monitored all night by Land Defense Guards, forestry personnel, and employees of industrial enterprises. Further open fires [words indistinct] were not allowed to break out.

Heavy rain is falling on the Slitere Nature Reserve, which is helping to contain the open fires. As our correspondent was told by Maija Reriha, deputy chairwoman of the Kolka rural district council, great clouds of smoke are rising over the nature reserve. About 300 people are working there now, observing the smoldering sites.

The weather at Kolka is now sunny and windy, and the possibility of fires breaking out again is great.

[Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian in the same broadcast adds: "The coordinating headquarters of firefighters in Slitere is appealing for volunteers to prevent fires breaking out again near Saunaga and Melnsils."]

Resolution on Electricity Price Rise Adopted

LD1507085692 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 14 Jul

[Text] The Latvian Government today adopted a resolution providing for higher prices on electricity as the price of imported energy resources has soared. The average tariff is going to be R2.64 [ruble] per kilowatt hour but other tariffs will vary from R1.50 to R3.40. The resolution enters into force as of 15 July.

Lithuania

Vagnorius Comments After No Confidence Vote

Issues Statement

LD1407205792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Statement issued by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius to ELTA correspondent after Supreme Council meeting in Vilnius on 14 July—read by announcer]

[Text] My resignation statement, which was deliberated in the Supreme Council several weeks ago, was not realized because it lacked several votes.

I wrote that statement in protest against the gross interference in the fulfillment of my duties by the leftist parliamentary majority, against this communist opposition (?which had assumed) law-issuing power for its own political ambitions and also against the harm inflicted against the interests of the state and its citizens.

A successful economic reform and consolidation of law and order constitute the basic conditions for a better life for the people and the strengthening of independence. We would have markedly better results even now if the implementation of adopted laws and government decrees is not deliberately stopped. However, the pro-communist forces, bent on returning power to themselves at any cost, have openly supported sabotage of the law and worked to maintain disorder. For that reason also, government authorizations were blocked. Total disregard for people was demonstrated at the time when the government presented for deliberation the measures to overcome the drought in agriculture and to regulate credit issue.

The Bank of Lithuania and the General Procuracy have been turned into political tools. That is why economic processes have been changed. Moreover, organized economic criminals threw in their lot with the former party nomenklatura. This has not gone unnoticed, however, and it cannot be tolerated.

The unseating of the government leader who had failed to bow to pressure from the pro-communist forces and criminal groups has been encouraged by the elections to the Seimas, which are to take place in a few months. Political aims are not difficult to understand. Elections must be approached with the support of one's own authority.

This is how it was in 1990—thus, it is hoped to attain more favorable authority propaganda this year also [as heard].

The opposition forces have also been disturbed by the economic crime investigations carried out by the government in recent months, which have touched the Procuracy, the Bank of Lithuania, high executive authority, and law-issuing echelons. Compromising the economic reform policy has not proved successful. However, in striving to validate the dismissal in some way in the eyes of society, they have resorted to open lies, slander, and fabrication against the government leader.

We have been dismissed, not by new, progressive political forces, but by those who resolved in favor of a political attempt to stop the changes in Lithuania.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to those ministers and apparatus staff members and [word indistinct] who worked in a conscientious and principled manner. May those who work be as numerous as possible, and may there be fewer of those who interfere with work. May those who create be as numerous as possible, and may there be fewer of those who destroy.

As far as circumstances permit, I will continue to contribute to strengthening the state and its economy and developing a healthy policy.

Says Government Not To Resign

OW1407190492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1810 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking before the republic's parliament on Tuesday [14 July], Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius said that his government was not going to resign. He made this statement prior to the end of the evening session of the republic's Supreme Council, three hours after the parliament, 69 vs. 6, had passed the vote of no confidence in his government.

Mr Vagnorius requested that the deputies "wait until the return of the chairman of the Supreme Council who will propose a new candidate to the post of the premier".

At present, Mr Landsbergis is staying in Byelarus where he, reportedly, is meeting with Chairman of the Byelarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich.

Addresses Supreme Council

LD1407235192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After lunch, the deputies attempted to resolve the question of the government and to propose candidates for prime minister, without the participation of the Supreme Council chairman. In spite of this, however, it was decided that such deliberations are unconstitutional and the discussion was postponed until tomorrow.

Some of the deputies were explaining that the prime minister's statement of resignation has not yet been received, although the prime minister had made a written request to deliberate the question of his interpellation along with his resignation statement.

Today, at the very conclusion of the Supreme Council session, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius took the floor for a few minutes. He declared that the doubts raised among some of the deputies regarding whether or not he would return his authorizations are without foundation.

The prime minister affirmed that following a no-confidence vote in the government, or having accepted the government's resignation, the government returns its authorizations through the prime minister's person.

He suggested to the deputies not to take some sort of an illegal step and not to exacerbate the already acute

situation any further. He suggested that they wait 24 hours, or half that time, until the return of the Supreme Council chairman.

In the opinion of Gediminas Vagnorius, the Supreme Council chairman will propose, without delay, the candidacy of another prime minister and a new government will be approved, which will be able to carry on successfully until the Seimas elections.

The prime minister also declared that this government will temporarily continue its duties until the formation of a new government.

We shall recall that Gediminas Vagnorius was temporarily appointed prime minister during the night of 13 January 1991, when then Prime Minister Albertas Simenas had disappeared under nebulous circumstances. By the way, the single, oft-repeated reproach directed at the prime minister by the New Parliamentary Majority was also, one notes, that he had only been appointed as temporary prime minister until such time as Albertas Simenas would be able to carry on these duties.

During the life of independent Lithuania, which amounts to slightly longer than two years, this is already the third government crisis.

Resolution Adopted on Vagnorius Role

LD1507160592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1525 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Resolution adopted by Supreme Council at plenary meeting on 15 July, carried by 82 votes to two, with eight abstentions]

[Text] 1. To instruct the government to continue its duties until a new government is formed.

2. To instruct Gediminas Vagnorius to continue at his post as prime minister until 21 July 1992.

3. To instruct the chairman of the Supreme Council to submit to the Supreme Council prime minister candidatures by 21 July 1992.

4. To extend the fifth session of the Supreme Council until the prime minister of the Republic of Lithuania is appointed.

5. This resolution comes into force upon its adoption.

Yeltsin Agrees on 'Necessity' of Withdrawing Army

LD1407200392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] As Vytautas Landsbergis pointed out, during the meeting on the last day of the Helsinki conference the Russian President Boris Yeltsin has agreed on the necessity of making and conforming the Army withdrawal schedule and starting the withdrawal itself.

Vytautas Landsbergis also noted that in the meeting with the U.S. President Bush and leaders of the Baltic states it has been decided to supply information about Russian Army's movements and activity in the Baltics.

In the opinion of Vytautas Landsbergis, it was obvious that President George Bush was unaware of some essential details connected with Russian Army's presence in the Baltics.

Landsbergis Comments on Helsinki CSCE Document

LD1407220992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Commenting on the principal document of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the chairman of the parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, said that they had offered a wider and more conclusive text of Article 15 of the political declaration. The text had openly and clearly implied the idea that countries, Helsinki process members, should watch the Russian Army's withdrawal from the Baltics and feel somewhat responsible for it. But such a variant of the text had not been approved during preliminary discussions, although some elements of it had been included into the final document and explained by the additional document.

According to the special missions ambassador, Valdemaras Katkus, for the first time the document of this kind contains the international law norm designed specially for the Baltic states that, undoubtedly, will be a higher level guarantee for the security of the state and its people.

French Military Delegation Meets Officials

LD1407211592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] A French Defense Ministry General Staff delegation headed by Captain (Jean Luc Duval) was received by the leader of the Lithuanian parliament. The Lithuanian foreign minister and defense minister and French Ambassador to Lithuania Fillipe de Surmain were also present at the meeting.

The delegation arrived to establish closer contacts with the Defense Ministry and to find out how France could assist Lithuania. This has been done already: a group of officers from the Supreme Council security service are receiving training in France, and places in the French military academy have been reserved for Lithuanian officers.

Vagnorius 'Authorized' Destruction of Airfield

OW1007154592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1221 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Algimantas Norvilas, a deputy of the Lithuanian parliament, claims that the republic's premier Gediminas Vagnorius has authorized the destruction of the Soviet Air Force airfield in the area of Paliepiai which was designed as an auxiliary landing strip for the Soviet space shuttle "Buran". According to the deputy, the dismantling works are carried out by a private-owned Russian company.

In an interview to BALTFAX, Mr Norvilas maintains that formally the Paliepiai airfield belongs to the CIS strategic naval aviation of the Baltic Navy, and it has not been officially transferred to Lithuania. In 1989, the construction of the airfield was suspended when the runway and the fuel station had been built. The airfield's runway is 4,100 m long and 100 m wide. In the words of the deputy, this airfield has no analogues in Western Europe.

On Friday [10 July], Premier Vagnorius read his statement at the Lithuanian parliament session, accusing deputy Norvilas of slander.

Supreme Council Body Discusses Economic Problems

LD1507111292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] A recently set up permanent committee, which will analyze problems in production and business, held its first session today at the Supreme Council. Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council, took part in it.

Issues concerning credit emission, payment arrears in enterprises, and other pressing problems of the Lithuanian economy were discussed. It was stressed that it was worthwhile to seek the support of commercial structures and private capital in solving these problems.

The participants in the session had no objections to credit emission in principle. However, they stressed that this was only one of the problems; a more all-embracing view on the complex situation of the economy was needed.

Another session will be held by the permanent committee in a couple of weeks.

Government Accuses Lithuania Bank of Violations

LD1507163692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The Lithuanian Government has passed the materials to Lithuania's Office of Public Prosecutor about (?gross) infringements and law violation at the Bank of Lithuania. In the official report presented by the government the Bank of Lithuania is accused of continually ignoring and violating laws of the Republic of Lithuania and the government orders. It is also accused of postponing printing of Lithuanian currency that impedes introduction of Lithuanian currency litas. According to the report the bank has also concealed interest for hard currency [words indistinct].

LIETUVOS AIDAS Becomes Independent Paper

LD1407172992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0850 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The press attache of the Supreme Council began his briefing this morning by congratulating LIETUVOS AIDAS, which became, if one may say so, free as of yesterday. At yesterday's meeting of the Supreme Council Presidium, the Presidium gave up its rights as founder of the newspaper.